

Reata CEO Highlights North Texas' Resilience & Innovation in Exclusive Interview



BioNTX, a leading bioscience and healthcare innovation trade organization and the North Texas life sciences industry applaud the vision and resilience of Reata Pharmaceuticals over their 20-year journey to success.

In an exclusive interview with BioNTX, former Reata CEO Warren Huff reflects on the company's history and commitment to innovating drug development through a combination of disciplined science, skilled talent, and a high-risk, high-reward philosophy.

[Watch full interview](#)

City of Arlington and BioNTX Announce Partnership for 2024 iC³ Life Science Summit



Acknowledging the City of Arlington's innovative atmosphere, BioNTX announced they will host their annual iC³ Life Science and Healthcare Innovation Summit at Live! by Loews, on October 3rd & 4th 2024. Recognizing Arlington as an ideal location to celebrate the 10th Annual Summit, the announcement reflects a thriving partnership between North Texas and the life

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release

sciences industry.

The iC³ Summit convenes industry leaders and fosters collaboration between academia and industry by exploring the latest innovation, therapies, products, and services in life sciences. For any questions, please reach out to iC3@biontx.org.



Paul Corson and University of Texas at Arlington Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Development MavPitch Winners

Innovation Management = Opportunity Development x Commercialization Pathways (IM = ODxCP)

The University of Texas at Arlington is dedicated to prioritizing innovation and entrepreneurship, as the university's strategic focus includes fostering an innovative culture, supporting creative scholars, integrating creativity into the curriculum, and establishing visible structures for positive impact. BioNTX is thrilled to belong to a North Texas ecosystem with such collaborative partners as UTA and the City of Arlington where vision, passion, and the spirit of innovation converge every day.

A Night of Charity, Community & Holiday Spirit



BioNTX joyously attended the winter holiday season at Health Wildcatter's 8th Annual Health Innovation Holiday Celebration, alongside the North Texas healthcare innovation community.

Charitable donations received during the event went towards supporting ShelterBox and the North Texas Food Bank through the Rotary Club of Dallas Foundation, ensuring a lasting impact on those in need this holiday season.

Lantern Pharma Hackathon Allows Outstanding UT Dallas Students a Shot at A.I. Fellowship





Lantern Pharma recently capped their first Hackathon with nearly 200 graduate students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas. With the help of Assistant Dean, Gaurav Shekhar, university students participated in focusing on real-world challenges at the forefront of drug development. Winning teams and individuals are being considered for fellowships with Lantern's RADR Platform team.

MORE BIONTX MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Thank You BioNTX New & Renewing Members



Almaden Genomics Unveils Cutting-Edge g.nome™ for Enhanced Single-Cell Analysis



Almaden Genomics elevates single-cell RNAseq analysis with g.nome™, featuring an integrated end-to-end solution for streamlined processing, precise gene expression quantification, and dynamic visualization on a cloud-native platform. The platform's advanced capabilities, including

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alignment, Seurat clustering, and reference-based cell-type annotation, along with built-in parallelization, eliminate manual annotation efforts, providing researchers with a consistently formatted HTML document for easy distribution and collaborative interaction.

FormBio Short-Listed for Medicine Maker's 2023 Innovation Awards



FormBio has been nominated, alongside 11 other companies, for The Medicine Maker's 2023 Innovation Awards. The nomination recognizes FormBio's groundbreaking technology, FORMsight, which utilizes AI and machine learning to enable rapid and secure modeling of billions of potential construct candidates for cell and gene development.

[Read full press release](#)

[Vote for FormBio](#)

Fujifilm Bolsters Cell & Gene Therapy Manufacturing with \$200M Expansion

FUJIFILM

Diosynth
biotechnologies

Fujifilm Corporation, under the leadership of President and CEO Teiichi Goto, is making a strategic investment of \$200 million in two subsidiaries to significantly enhance global cell therapy contract development and manufacturing (CDMO) capabilities.

This investment will specifically support FUJIFILM Cellular Dynamics, Inc., a prominent developer and manufacturer of human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) and iPSC-derived cells, and the California site of FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies, a leading Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) in biologics and advanced therapies.

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Ready for Launch: Panthera BioSolutions Announces January Grand Opening

PANTHERA
BIOSOLUTIONS

...An innovative approach to increasing your operations footprint

Panthera BioSolutions has announced the opening of their pilot Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) facility in Fort Worth, Texas slated for January 11, 2024. In the heart of North Texas, PBS is uniquely poised to deliver best-in-class services for innovators, startups and established companies alike.

Founded in October 2021, PBS was created to address unmet needs by providing a comprehensive suite of specialty pharmaceutical R&D services that include manufacturing, packaging, product testing, warehousing, logistics and consulting. PBS will spearhead the introduction of ready-to-use, leasable cleanrooms in North Texas.

These spaces will empower local companies to innovate and seamlessly scale up to GMP standards to support clinical trial execution, while protecting intellectual property, reducing the burden of facility ownership/maintenance and optimizing costs.

PBS's commitment to the regional life science ecosystem extends to nurturing the next generation of pharmaceutical professionals through designated, on-site hands-on training space at their facility. In addition to offering training and upskilling for new and incumbent industry talent, PBS will provide visibility to sustainable career paths within the industry, making it a cornerstone in developing a robust, life science workforce for the future.

[Learn more about Panthera](#)

Island Pharmaceuticals Doses Second Cohort in Milestone Dengue Trial



Island Pharmaceuticals Ltd achieves a significant milestone by successfully dosing all eight subjects in the second cohort of its ISLA-101 Single Ascending Dose (SAD) study. ISLA-101, a promising drug candidate repurposed for preventing and treating dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases, is undergoing escalating dose administration to verify safe and effective blood concentrations against the dengue virus in healthy subjects.

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Johnson + Johnson Bladder Cancer Drug Candidate gets FDA Breakthrough Designation



INNOVATION

Johnson & Johnson announced a significant development, revealing that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation (BTD) to their investigational therapy, TAR-200. This designation is specifically for the potential future treatment of patients grappling with Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)-unresponsive high-risk non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (HR-NMIBC). Notably, this subset of patients is either ineligible for or has chosen not to undergo radical cystectomy, which is the surgical removal of the bladder.

TAR-200 is an innovative targeted releasing system engineered to deliver sustained local release of gemcitabine directly into the bladder. The conferred Breakthrough Therapy Designation marks a significant milestone for Johnson & Johnson, representing their 13th such designation in the field of oncology.

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FDA Greenlights Osteal Therapeutics'

Candidate for Periprosthetic Joint Infection



The FDA has granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation to Osteal Therapeutics' VT-X7 for treating periprosthetic joint infection in the hip and knee, marking another milestone after previously receiving Orphan Drug, Qualified Infectious Disease Product, and Fast Track designations. Additionally, the company has successfully completed enrollment in the pivotal APEX-2 clinical trial for VT-X7.

David Thompson, President and CEO, commented on the Breakthrough Therapy Designation, stating, "Securing this designation from the FDA is a major milestone for the company and underscores the agency's acknowledgment of VT-X7's potential in addressing periprosthetic joint infection as a serious, life-threatening condition. With patients and providers in urgent need of improved PJI treatment options, this designation positions VT-X7 on an accelerated path to meet this critical demand."

[Read full press release](#)

Battelle and Spark Biomedical Join Forces on Non-Invasive Neurostimulation Device



Battelle, the world's largest non-profit R&D company, and Spark Biomedical, a leader in wearable neurostimulation, are partnering on a \$1.15 million Phase II grant to develop a non-invasive device addressing Acute Stress Reactions.

Following Phase I benchmarking with combat medics, Battelle's medical device team, specializing in advanced materials and data science, collaborates with Spark on the Sparrow Hawk device for clinical trials. These trials aim to evaluate the device's efficacy in restoring cognitive performance in simulated battlefield stress environments.

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Baylor University Named in U.S. News' Best for Undergraduate Teaching and Research



For the second consecutive year, Baylor University achieves recognition in U.S. News' rankings, securing the 22nd spot for undergraduate teaching and the 21st spot for undergraduate research/creative projects nationally. Baylor stands out as the only Texas institution in the top 25 for both categories and is unique as the sole Christian university on both lists. The university's longstanding commitment to undergraduate education is complemented by a growing research effort, enhancing the classroom experience with cutting-edge knowledge and hands-on opportunities for students across various campus labs.

[Read full press release](#)

UT Arlington Researchers Advance Alzheimer's Research by Identifying Amyloid Beta Forms



Daniel Armstrong, PhD, MS

[Read full press release](#)

Researchers at The University of Texas at Arlington make significant strides in Alzheimer's research, developing pioneering methods to identify and characterize diverse irregular forms of amyloid beta. This breakthrough offers valuable insights into the elusive causes of Alzheimer's, crucial for the development of medications and immunotherapies. Daniel W. Armstrong, the lead author and Welch Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, underscores the significance of this research in potentially advancing efforts to halt the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

UT Dallas to Explore Brain Stimulation for Cognitive Issues in Multiple Sclerosis Patients



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Dr. John Hart Jr. at the University of Texas at Dallas has secured a \$1.6 million grant from the Department of Defense to investigate the potential of low-level electrical brain stimulation in addressing cognitive issues among multiple sclerosis (MS) patients. As the Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience, Dr. Hart aims to validate the effectiveness of high-definition transcranial direct current stimulation (HD-tDCS) for MS patients experiencing difficulties in word retrieval over a three-year period.

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UT Southwestern's Dr. Jinming Gao Honored as National Academy of Inventors Fellow for Innovations in Cancer Nanotechnology

UT Southwestern
Medical Center



Jinming Gao, PhD

Dr. Jinming Gao, a Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been honored as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) for his groundbreaking contributions to nanotechnology in cancer diagnosis and treatment. His work, particularly in the development of synthetic polymer nanoparticles like pegsitacianine, showcases innovative approaches such as real-time surgical imaging by illuminating solid tumor boundaries.

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NORTH TEXAS NEWS

Xponential Fitness and American Cancer Society to Partner on Health & Wellness



[Read full press release](#)

Xponential Fitness, Inc., the world's largest franchisor of health and wellness brands, and the American Cancer Society, a leading organization dedicated to cancer advocacy, research, and patient support, have unveiled a national partnership set to commence in January. This collaborative effort aims to harness the influence of health, wellness, and fitness to generate widespread positive impact in the fight against cancer, ensuring opportunities for prevention, detection, treatment, and survival for all.

Capital Factory Aims to Elevate Texas Startups



[Read full press release](#)

Austin-based startup accelerator, Capital Factory, in collaboration with business founders and investors, has unveiled a comprehensive plan to enhance connectivity among entrepreneurs across Texas and significantly increase funding for startups.

Outlined in a new report with recommendations for major cities in the state, the initiative aims to generate \$600 million to \$900 million in additional funding for startups by 2027, potentially leading to an extra \$3.6 billion to \$5.4 billion in funding by 2030. Key components include the establishment of the nonprofit Station Texas, designed to connect startup founders and investors through various channels, fostering collaboration and growth.

FUNDING & MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PSC Grants Funds for New Therapy Discovery

Application 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

Apply now

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.

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

Upcoming Events & Opportunities in North Texas



ARPA-H Customer Experience Hub Information Session

Join BioMedSA for an overview from ARPA-H's Customer Experience Hub. This session is available to Customer Experience Hub Spokes and local organizations in the health network.

December 19, 2023

[Learn more](#)



Call for Employers: Keep Talent in Texas

North Texas is the ideal home for a life science career. BioNTX is a bridge between businesses and job opportunities. Meet quality talent available now!

January 9, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Why CEO's Need to Infuse Security & Privacy into Their DNA

Join BioNTX for an enlightening "taster" session on why incorporating essential elements for strengthening privacy of data and data security within your organization is integral to your risk management strategy.

January 11, 2024

[Learn more](#)



...An innovative approach to increasing your operations footprint

Panthera BioSolutions Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Join Panthera BioSolutions to celebrate the launch of their company and discover how they plan to support the burgeoning North Texas life science market.

January 11, 2024

[Learn more](#)



Breaking Boundaries: AI's Role in

Maximizing Innovation with SBIR/STTR Funding for Small Businesses

Join UT Arlington to learn about maximizing innovation and unlocking the SBIR and STTR funding that is available for small businesses.

January 18, 2024

[Learn more](#)

Advancing Science and Innovation

Join BioNTX to explore the dynamic intersections of innovation and AI. We will delve into the transformative power of AI in shaping the future of industries and driving creative solutions to complex challenges.

January 25, 2024

Lubbock, TX

[Learn more](#)

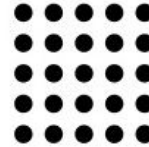


5th Annual Women's Cardiovascular and Brain Health Symposium

Join UNTHSC at their Women's Cardiovascular and Brain Health Symposium, which promotes research addressing women's cardiovascular and brain health, provides the opportunity for students and postdoctoral fellows to present their work, fosters regional and local research collaborations, and raises awareness about the importance of women's health research.

February 1 - 2, 2024

[Learn more](#)



iC SUMMITS
Industry & Community

Texas BioLife Summit

Join iC Summits to foster meaningful connections, inspire thought-provoking discussions, and encourage innovation in a rapidly evolving industry.

February 21, 2024

[Learn more](#)

Join the Movement at BioNTX

BioNTX provides opportunities for Members to connect across Texas, collaborate with others, receive industry insights, and increase visibility. We are the voice and champion for the life science community in NTX.



December 18, 2023

Stay Connected!



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