

## UNTHSC Hosts Panel as North Texas Becomes New Life Sciences Hub



The UNTHSC School of Biomedical Sciences hosted an engaging panel series discussing aspects of the life science industry and corresponding workforce talent in Texas. The gorgeous campus in downtown Fort Worth proved an excellent venue for convening regional academics, faculty, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals for what was an evening of networking and discussions about biotechnology life sciences.



Keynote speaker Victoria Ford, President and CEO of THBI highlighted the state's incredible growth. BioNTX's Business Director, Dr. Aaron BenComo, spoke on a panel focusing on bridging the talent gap in the life science industry, stating the need for more state and federal funding opportunities to offset employer training costs and better awareness regarding employment pathways.

Another panel centered on challenges faced in education and the evolving pathways to meet changing market needs. By bolstering existing training programs and creating new ones North Texas is preparing the workforce. By the end of the evening, those in attendance left with a distinctly new excitement surrounding the growing ecosystem in North Texas, assured that the best is yet to come.

## Keeping Top Talent in North Texas



BioNTX and Catapult Solutions Group hosted the 2nd annual Talent Network Meet & Greet in Fort Worth and Dallas.

Researchers and graduate students from esteemed institutions including Texas Christian University, Texas Woman's University, The University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of North Texas, The University of North Texas Health Science Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and Oklahoma State University gathered to connect and learn about careers in industry.

Together, they explored the wealth of opportunities in North Texas and engaged with executives from Catapult Solutions Group, gaining valuable insights for their job search journeys.

Thank you **Catapult Solutions Group** for sponsoring the Talent Network Meet & Greet!

[Join our Talent Network group](#)

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Alpha Cognition Hits Milestone with US Patent



Alpha Cognition Inc., a biopharmaceutical company developing novel therapeutics for debilitating neurodegenerative disorders, is pleased to announce the United States Patent and Trademark Office has issued a Notice of Allowance for patent application No. 17/575,025, titled "Solid Forms of ALPHA-1062 Gluconate," which includes claims covering protection for crystalline solid forms of ALPHA-1062 and will bolster existing patents that the company holds. A Notice of Allowance is issued after the USPTO makes the determination that a patent should be granted from an application.

[Learn more about Alpha Cognition's ALPHA-1062](#)

### Lantern Pharma Green-lit for Drug Candidate



Lantern Pharma Inc., an artificial intelligence company developing targeted and transformative cancer therapies using its proprietary RADR® AI and machine learning (ML) platform with multiple clinical-stage drug programs, received a notice of allowance from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) covering a method of treatment for Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor using LP-184, an aggressive and rapidly growing form of cancer of the central nervous system.

[Learn more about Lantern Pharma's LP-184](#)

### Lifecycle Biotechnologies Partners to Innovate

# Flow Cytometry Standards



Lifecycle Biotechnologies L.P. and WORK-FLOW are thrilled to announce a licensing agreement to commercialize and develop a new line of reagents for flow cytometry markets. Lifecycle Biotechnologies L.P. is a globally recognized manufacturer of uniquely packaged, high quality laboratory reagents. Known for their CHEM+NECT closed-loop-fluid delivery system, this packaging ensures optimal product integrity and stability, minimizing waste and maximizing efficiency.

Cody Yarborough, Lifecycle CEO, stated “This collaboration exemplifies Lifecycle’s commitment to innovate quality products and being pertinent to needs of the market. Collaborating closely with WORK-FLOW, known for their deep technical knowledge of flow cytometry applications and their forward-thinking approach to market demands, promises to significantly elevate our sheath fluid product portfolio. This really is a great marriage of product innovation and manufacturing expertise that will benefit both of our expanding customer bases.”

[Read full press release](#)

## GordonMD Invests in Taysha Gene Therapies



GordonMD® Global Investments LP announced it has participated in a \$150 million private placement financing for Taysha Gene Therapies, Inc., a clinical-stage gene therapy company focused on developing and commercializing AAV-based gene therapies for the treatment of monogenic diseases of the central nervous system (CNS).

“Over the last 13 years, gene therapies have been or are being developed for a wide range of rare diseases, said Craig Gordon, M.D., founder, chief executive officer, and chief investment officer of Gordon MD® Global Investments. I am excited to help fund the development of such a therapy for the potential treatment of Rett Syndrome.

[Read full press release](#)

## Leaders Insight: The State of the North Texas Biotech Industry



D CEO recently sat down with Lili Clark, Claire Aldridge, PhD and Gabby Everett, PhD to discuss advancements in medicine via biotech, Pegasus Park, the state of biotech in North Texas, and future forecasts.

Lyda Hill Philanthropies, alongside J. Small Investments, spearhead the Pegasus Park project to turn the former oil industry site into Dallas’ biotech heart. The 23-acre campus currently features 750,000 square feet of office and warehouse space, a number that’s soon to grow.

BioLabs, situated in the campus's 18-story office tower, serves as an incubator and collaborative space for biotech startups from all over the country. It provides the necessary equipment for a startup to graduate into the next stage of operations.

Form Bio, a spinoff of Colossal (the Dallas-based company working to bring back the woolly mammoth among other extinct animals), lends its AI and software to biotech companies, assisting companies in improving its products.

[Read full press release](#)

## GL Chemtec Co-Founder & CEO Named 2023 Women of Inspiration™ Top Awards Finalist



**Congratulations Dr. Lisa Studnicki Hunt!**



A Woman of Inspiration™ is an extraordinary woman who inspires those around her to be more and do more. She is an everyday hero, entrepreneur, CEO, business leader, changemaker, game-changer and role model who leads by example with courage, confidence, commitment, and integrity.

[Learn more about GL Chemtec](#)

## NORTH TEXAS NEWS

### Downtown Fort Worth Wins Bid for New Tarleton State Biotechnology Institute



Tarleton State's new Biotechnology Institute, part of Texas A&M-Fort Worth's downtown research campus, puts the university in the middle of one of the largest, fastest growing life sciences hotbeds in the country.

"The Tarleton State Biotechnology Institute will foster academic and industry partnerships, develop a talent pipeline and inspire next-generation scientists and workforce professionals," said A&M System Chancellor John Sharp.

[Learn more about Tarleton's Biotechnology Institute](#)

## Texas Tech University: Investing in the



# Future of Agriculture

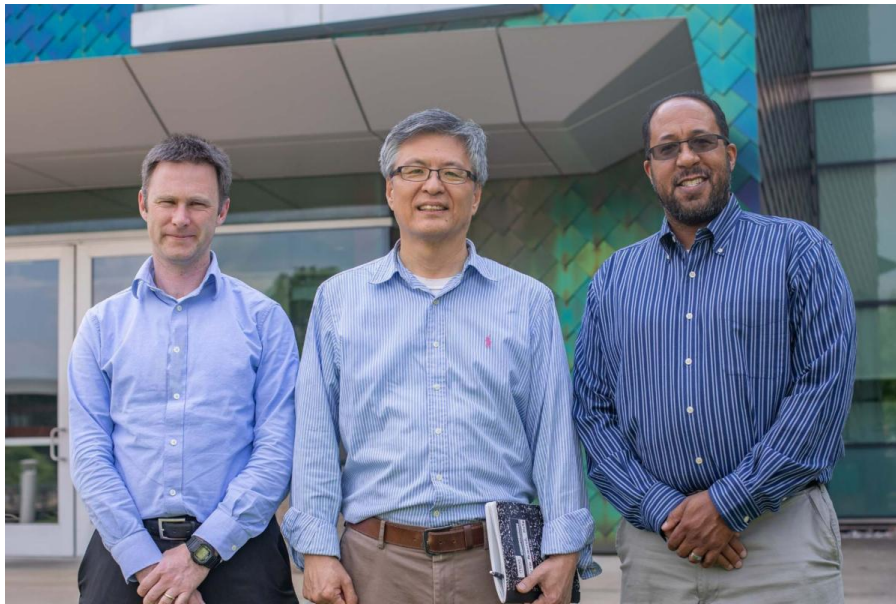


Lubbock ISD recently cut the ribbon on the new Agri-STEM complex for LISD students. The Agri-STEM complex will serve students from all five LISD high schools and help prepare them to further their education or build careers within the agriculture industry and will offer LISD students the chance to see the high-level research being done by Texas Tech students and professors.

“The LISD students may be from urban backgrounds and not really understand what agriculture is all about. Our Davis College students can help make that connection or be that bridge to those career opportunities,” said Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources Dean Clint Krehbie.

[Read full press release](#)

## DARPA Grant Powers UTD Design of Nanoscale Computer Chips



(From left to right) Cormac Toher, PhD, Kyeongjae Cho, PhD, MS and Chadwin Young, PhD, MS, are developing AI computational modeling tools that simulate and predict performance of integrated circuits with nanoscale transistors.

A team of five University of Texas at Dallas researchers is working to develop computational modeling tools that use artificial intelligence to do the work 1,000 times faster than simulations processed by supercomputers. The Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science researchers received a \$1 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to demonstrate the proof-of-concept materials design approach to predicting material properties at the nanometer scale.

The AI-based tools will aid in the design of smaller, faster devices — specifically the

development of high-performance terahertz (THz) devices for DARPA applications — and could have broader impacts on advanced materials, including next-generation battery technology.

[Read full press release](#)

## UT Southwestern Researcher Receives National Cancer Moonshot Award

**UTSouthwestern**  
Medical Center



Todd Aguilera, MD, PhD

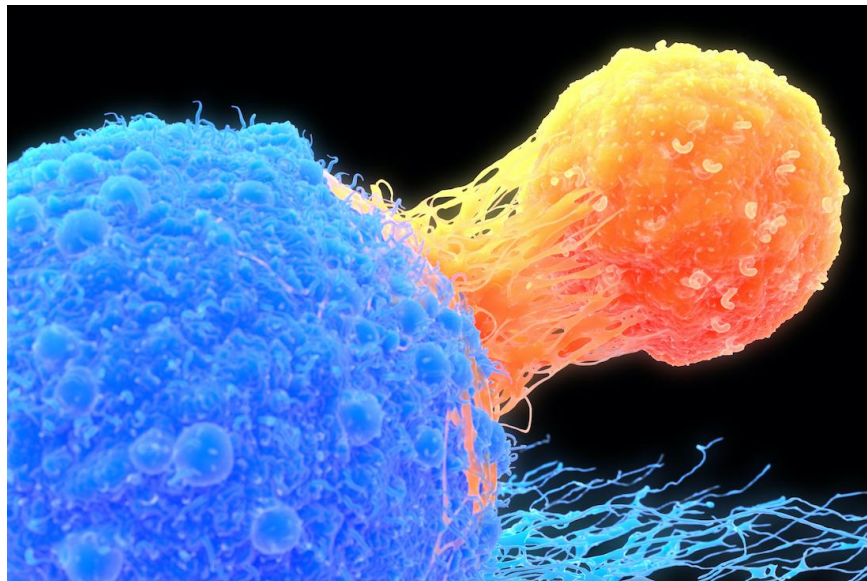
Todd Aguilera, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been named one of 11 inaugural Cancer Moonshot Scholars. The national program recognizes a cohort of early-career investigators from underrepresented groups who have been identified as emerging leaders in cancer research and innovation.

“There is a critical need to pioneer new treatment combinations so patients can be definitively treated with radiation and systemic therapy and avoid invasive surgeries,” Dr. Aguilera said. “We developed an integrated approach to assess early biopsy tissue after short-course radiation therapy, evaluating molecular, cellular, and spatial dynamics that could improve our ability to identify promising combination therapies.”

[Read full press release](#)

## UT Southwestern Finds Potential Key to Predict Immune Toxicity

**UTSouthwestern**  
Medical Center



Researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center have identified a novel parameter of

T cells that could help oncologists anticipate which patients would be most likely to develop immunotherapy toxicity. The findings, published in the Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, could lead to improved treatments for a variety of cancers.

Immunotherapy has grown rapidly in recent years as a treatment for a wide range of common cancers. Some patients, however, acquire toxicities known as immune-related adverse events (irAEs), which can affect almost any organ system at any point during or after treatment. In rare cases, they can be fatal.

[Read full press release](#)

## Dallas' Medical District Continues to Grow



North Texas' population and business growth are providing a bulwark against real estate headwinds, and healthcare tends to be a recession-proof, though often expensive, real estate investment.

Because so much of healthcare is funded by the state, its support has played a big role in the investment in the city's Medical District. "Dallas is very intentional about pushing the development of this medical corridor," Hardenburg says. "Private developers are going to be involved, but that development is in part due to the support and affirmative push from the city."

[Read full press release](#)

## Uniting the Leigh Syndrome Community To Accelerate Research and Treatments



EMPOWER AND INSPIRE:

2ND ANNUAL  
LEIGH  
SYNDROME  
SYMPOSIUM



STEVEN GRAY, PHD  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
SOUTHWESTERN  
MEDICAL CENTER

KEYNOTE:  
GENE THERAPY  
FOR  
NEUROLOGICAL  
DISORDERS

JOIN US VIRTUALLY ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2023  
TO REGISTER:  
CUREMITO.ORG/CONFERENCE



Join Cure Mito Foundation for their 2nd annual conference focused on Leigh Syndrome. This event is open to patients, their families, industry, and researchers and will focus on the latest research related to Leigh syndrome.

Steven Gray, PhD, Associate Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center will describe the current state-of-the-art for using AAV vectors to deliver genes to the nervous system and discuss examples where this has been used successfully, and also challenges and limitations of the technology.

[Register now](#)

# NORD Announces Huge Round of Grant Funding for Rare Disease Research



The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD®) announced three new requests for proposals (RFPs) for grant funding related to the following rare diseases: Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM), Levy-Yeboa Syndrome (LYS), and Megacystis Microcolon Intestinal Hypoperistalsis Syndrome (MMIHS).

NORD's Research Grants Program provides seed-money grants to qualified investigators for scientific and clinical research into diseases for which there are few other sources of funding.

[Apply Now](#)

## FUNDING & MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### CPRIT Awards More Than \$49M to Texas Institutions for Cancer Research



CANCER PREVENTION & RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS

The governing board of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) took another major step in the fight against cancer by approving over \$49 million in new cancer research and prevention grants at its quarterly meeting.

"From new research programs, recruitment of preeminent scientists to Texas, pilot studies, new technology, and expanding the reach of successful cancer prevention programs, today's grants highlight the effect CPRIT is having on not just cancer research and prevention efforts, but on life science infrastructure in Texas," said Wayne Roberts, CPRIT CEO.

[Learn more here](#)

### NIIMBL Announces Intent to Study Next Generation Sequencing Methods



The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) is pleased to announce a Request for Information (RFI) related to a planned method development study, focused on the development and optimization of Next-Generation



Sequencing (NGS) methods for extended characterization of Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) gene therapy vectors.

The planned study aims to promote collaboration among multiple laboratories and industry partners to enhance the reliability, consistency, and understanding of AAV vector properties using NGS-based analysis methods.

[Learn more here](#)

## Take your Start-Up to the Next Level

Applications closes on September 27, 2023



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Innovation Hub  
at Research Park

Apply to Texas Tech University's Prototype Fund, which empowers entrepreneurs to create a prototype based on customer discovery insights. They are looking for established startups with innovative solutions that are ready to develop their minimum viable product.

[Apply now!](#)

## Empowering Women-Led Start-Ups in Texas

Applications closes on September 18, 2023



Apply to Eosera's 2nd annual EmpowHERment Pitch Competition for a chance to win a total of \$25,000. This competition is designed for female-led, Texas-based startups with only three finalists selected to pitch to a live audience.

[Apply now!](#)

## Become a Mentor: Help Students Gain Skills for Biotech Careers



LAUNCHBIO

The Biotech Career Workshop, located at Pegasus Park in Dallas, TX, is an immersive, full-day experience designed specifically for underserved students to foster their interest in biotechnology and entrepreneurship. It aims to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to pursue successful careers in the biotech industry while encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship.

LaunchBio is looking for volunteers to serve ninety minutes to judge students' pitches and share significant lessons acquired during their careers.

Apply to volunteer

## 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

## Accepting Application for TechFW's Accelerator Program

Applications due September 5, 2023



Apply to TechFW's Accelerator Program to get connected to resources you need to commercialize your technology. The cohort will begin tentatively on September 13.

Apply now

## Accelerating Cancer Therapeutics

Applications due October 13, 2023



Apply to TMC's Innovation Accelerator for Cancer Therapeutics for the opportunity to participate in a nine-month Accelerator. Participants will gain a deep understanding of market research, FDA regulations, intellectual property, licensing, finance, fundraising, legal, and other critical areas that will propel your business for long-term success.

Apply now

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

## Save the Date! iC<sup>3</sup> Life Science Summit

iC<sup>3</sup> = Innovation x Capital x Collaboration x Commercialization

# BIONTX

Please join BioNTX and network with us and the bioscience and healthcare innovation community. Texas industry leaders discuss business strategies, and the broad spectrum of Texas bioscience research in our growing ecosystem.

Register now

Thank you 2023 sponsors!



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Learn more about our 2023 iC<sup>3</sup> Life Science Summit

# Upcoming Events & Opportunities in North Texas



## WISH Network Series - One Year Celebration

Join Health Wildcatters to celebrating their one-year anniversary of our Women in Science and Healthcare Network.

August 28, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



## HSC Next Innovation Labs Showcase

Join HSC Next to learn about Fort Worth's best kept secret for biotech companies, Next Innovation Labs. Meet the founders and learn about what they are doing to solve several unmet medical needs.

August 31, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



## Lets Be COOL Again

Join FWLSC to celebrate 20 years of Summer Social! Enjoy some food, beverages, great music and meet the people you need to know.

August 31, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



## AI Challenges & Opportunities in Biopharma, Synthetic Biology & Beyond

Join Form Bio to learn key challenges, opportunities and investment areas for data science and AI within life sciences.

September 5, 2023

[Learn more here](#)



Dell for Startups Pitch Showcase



2nd Annual Leigh Syndrome Symposium







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