LSO
LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO

SUCCESS STORIES

Ontario life sciences companies are producing astounding innovations across our sector. Read about how their businesses are fuelling our economy – and how we can help them reach their full potential to accelerate life sciences into a major economic powerhouse.

SUCCESS STORIES

SPOTLIGHT

www.16Bit.ai

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Medical Device, Software, AI

"We are rethinking how to use existing x-rays to deliver smarter, more sustainable care. Instead of screening blindly, Rho identifies the right patients for follow-up, helping shift healthcare from reactive to proactive, reducing fractures and costs,"

- Dr. Alexander Bilbily, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of 16 Bit.

"Osteoporosis is a global health crisis. By generating robust evidence across diverse populations, we aim to make Rho a truly global solution,"

- Dr. Mark Cicero, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of 16 Bit.

16 BIT

Canada's Answer to the Global Osteoporosis Crisis

How AI-Driven Insights from Routine X-rays Are Transforming Osteoporosis Prevention Worldwide

Spark
Osteoporosis is a silent global epidemic, often going undetected until a devastating fracture occurs. The reliance on underutilized DXA scans means millions of people are left without a diagnosis. This critical gap in preventative care inspired 16 Bit's founders, two Canadian radiologists, to develop a groundbreaking solution that uses routinely acquired x-rays to proactively tackle this crisis.

Approach
16 Bit's Rho, an FDA Breakthrough Device and the world's first regulatory-approved opportunistic screening system for osteoporosis from x-rays, offers a fundamentally different model. The AI software seamlessly integrates into hospital systems and automatically analyzes routine x-rays (like those of the chest or knee) for subtle signs of low bone mineral density, beyond what the human eye can see. This eliminates the need for additional scans, radiation exposure, or specialized equipment. The patented system, trained on a massive dataset of paired x-ray and DXA scans, accurately detects at-risk patients who would otherwise be missed, providing an actionable report to radiologists and physicians.

Impact
Rho's impact shifts the healthcare model from reactive, crisis-driven care to proactive prevention. By identifying at-risk patients early, the technology enables intervention much earlier in the disease process and ideally before a fracture occurs thus improving patient outcomes and reducing suffering. This also helps healthcare systems by preventing costly fractures resulting in more sustainable and efficient healthcare. Ultimately, Rho makes preventive bone health more accessible and economically sustainable.

Momentum
Following its regulatory approvals in Canada, the United States, Australia, and Singapore, Rho has demonstrated significant momentum. It has been used to screen over 400,000 Canadians and has proven its clinical effectiveness across a variety of patient populations and clinical settings. The company is rapidly expanding its global reach with deployments in the United States, Australia, Europe, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Taiwan, and Brazil, solidifying its position as a global leader in AI-driven opportunistic screening.

Next
16 Bit's vision is to make opportunistic screening for bone health a new standard worldwide. By continuously building clinical evidence and expanding its global footprint, the company is committed to empowering healthcare systems with intelligent tools that work behind the scenes to save lives and make care more accessible for all.

Dr. Alexander Bilbily, MD,
Co-Founder & Co-CEO,16 Bit

Dr. Mark Cicero, MD,
Co-Founder & Co-CEO, 16 Bit

SPOTLIGHT

Abbott Diabetes Care

www.abbott.ca

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
>100 employees

Focus Areas:
Diabetes Care

"At Abbott, we are committed to positively transforming the lives of all people impacted by diabetes. Ontario's early adoption of FreeStyle Libre has shown what's possible when innovation meets accessibility."

- Luz Herrera, General Manager, Abbott Diabetes Care Canada

ABBOTT DIABETES CARE

Ontario Leads the Way in Diabetes Innovation with Abbott's FreeStyle Libre Systems

From improved health outcomes to reduced hospital visits, Ontario's early adoption of Abbott's FreeStyle Libre is transforming diabetes care.

In 2019, Ontario became the first province in Canada to offer coverage for FreeStyle Libre for adults, addressing a critical need for better diabetes management tools. With nearly 12 million Canadians living with diabetes or pre-diabetes, the burden on individuals and the healthcare system was growing rapidly.

The FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring[1,2] System with its growing profile including the FreeStyle Libre 2 and FreeStyle Libre 3 Systems is revolutionary technology. It allows people with diabetes to self-monitor their glucose levels without the need for the painful routine finger pricks[3] associated with test strips. This innovation empowers users to make informed decisions and manage their condition more effectively.

A recent first-of-its kind real-world-evidence study, FRONTIER, led by Dr. Stewart B. Harris and Dr. Alexandria Ratzki-Leewing, analyzed data from over 45,000 Ontarians using FreeStyle Libre since 2019. The results were compelling: significant improvements in HbA1c levels and notable reductions in emergency department visits and hospitalizations for diabetes-related complications.

Ontario's leadership in reimbursing the FreeStyle Libre systems for Ontarians living with diabetes set a precedent for other provinces[4]. The success of the program has been recognized nationally, and Abbott continues to innovate. In June 2025, Abbott Diabetes Care launched the FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus Sensor in Canada—the world's smallest glucose sensor.[5,6]

With the launch of FreeStyle Libre 3 Plus, the future of diabetes care is even more promising. Abbott remains committed to advancing technology that empowers Canadians to live healthier, fuller lives.

1. The FreeStyle Libre 2 flash glucose monitoring system (FreeStyle Libre 2 app used with FreeStyle Libre 2 sensor) is indicated for measuring interstitial fluid glucose levels in people aged 4 and older with diabetes mellitus. Always read and follow the label/insert.
2. FreeStyle Libre (discontinued in Canada), FreeStyle Libre 2 and FreeStyle Libre 3 systems are part of the same family of products.
3. Finger pricks are required if your glucose readings and alarms do not match symptoms or expectations.
4. For people with diabetes who meet the eligibility criteria of the respective programs. For more information on public coverage, please see here: https://www.freestyle.abbott/en-ca/cost-and-coverage.html
5. Data on file, Abbott Diabetes Care, Inc.
6. Among patient-applied sensors.

Endnotes

i EO Notice
ii Harris, S.B., Ratzki-Leewing, A. et al. "FRONTIER – Flash Glucose Monitoring Use in Ontario Among Patients with DM in the ICES Database – Evidence from Real World Practice." Data presented at the American Diabetes Association 84th Scientific Session, June 21-24, 2024.

SPOTLIGHT

AGORA OPEN SCIENCE TRUST

Reimagining Drug Discovery through Open Science

Turning drug discovery away from patents and toward regulatory exclusivities, Agora is proving that open science and global collaboration can deliver affordable medicines where patients need them most.

www.agoraopensciencetrust.org

Country of focus:
Canada

Year founded:
2018

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Nonprofit/Charity

Spark

Rare diseases often fall through the cracks of traditional drug development. Agora Open Science Trust is a Canadian charity reimagining the discovery and development of medicines. Founded on the belief that health is a human right, Agora rejects patents and secrecy by advancing new treatments through open science and collaboration.

Approach

Agora's model addresses two systemic issues: the lack of investment in rare diseases and the inefficiency caused by secrecy and patents. Instead, Agora leverages regulatory exclusivities, such as orphan drug and data exclusivity, as novel forms of regulatory IP to attract later-stage commercial partnerships for marketing and distribution of affordably priced medicine. Its model ensures that results, data, and tools are shared without restriction. To coordinate projects, Agora establishes wholly owned subsidiaries, such as M4K Pharma ("Medicines for Kids"), which are mandated to commercialize new medicines responsibly and return all revenues to Agora's charitable mission.

Impact

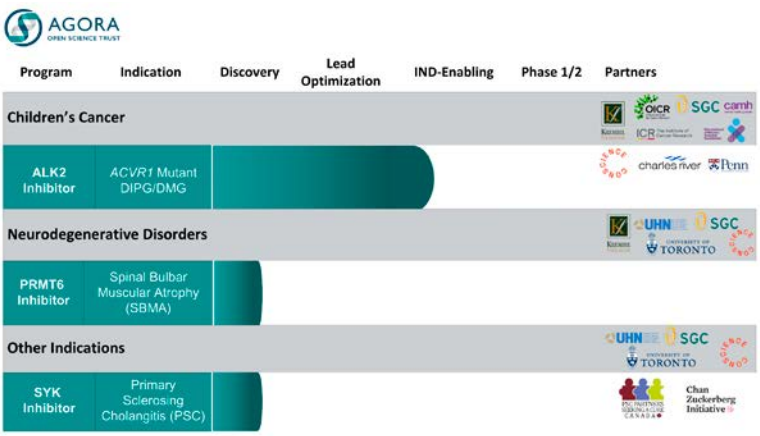
Agora is driving a cultural shift in drug discovery by inspiring academia and industry to rethink how they collaborate. At the same time, Agora's Open Science Policy has emerged as a comprehensive framework, showing how regulatory exclusivities can replace patents as the primary incentive while still ensuring affordability and innovation. This commitment to transparency strengthens public trust in science and in future medicines, particularly for vulnerable patient communities that have historically been left behind.

Momentum

Agora has already shown that open science drug discovery is possible. Through M4K Pharma, it has advanced its ALK2 inhibitor program for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) into IND-enabling studies, with regulatory filings planned for 2027. Funding from the Krembil Foundation and a recent award of $2.45 million in the Conscience DMOS program have allowed Agora to expand this model into two additional rare diseases. Perhaps most importantly, Agora has expanded a collaborative network that bridges academia, philanthropy, and industry. With leading Ontario institutions at its core and international partners contributing cutting-edge technologies, it has demonstrated that a charitable structure can coordinate complex drug discovery while ensuring that all benefits flow back to the public good.

Next

Agora's immediate priority is to complete IND-enabling studies for DIPG and begin clinical trials. Parallel programs in Spinal Bulbar Muscular Atrophy (SBMA) and Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC) are advancing through discovery stages. Over the long term, Agora will scale its pipeline and demonstrate that open science can be a sustainable path to affordable medicines worldwide.



Agora's open-science pipeline includes collaborative drug discovery programs targeting unmet medical needs in children's cancers, neurodegenerative disorders, and rare diseases. Current projects include ALK2 inhibitors for ACVR1-mutant DIPG/DMG, PRMT6 inhibitors for spinal bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA), and SYK inhibitors for primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC), all developed in partnership with leading academic, industry, and philanthropic organizations.

SPOTLIGHT

AMGEN CANADA INC.

Fighting the World's Toughest Diseases

At Amgen, we apply cutting-edge biotechnology and clinical insights to deliver transformative therapies and advances in patient care.

www.amgen.ca

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology

"Innovation only matters if it reaches the people who need it most. At Amgen, we're committed to breaking down barriers, investing in science and talent, and building a stronger, healthier future for our communities."

- Ugur Gunaydin, Vice President & General Manager, Amgen Canada

Amgen was founded more than 40 years ago with a clear mission: to serve patients by using science and biotechnology to address serious illnesses with high unmet medical need. In Canada, that mission means confronting some of the most complex health challenges, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, inflammation, and rare diseases, while working to close the gap between innovation and patient access. Delays in getting breakthrough medicines to patients can mean the difference between managing disease and facing life-threatening outcomes. From our headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario, we support patients across the country by delivering innovative medicines and strengthening the systems that make timely, equitable access possible, helping to build a more resilient life sciences ecosystem.

Amgen has been in Canada since 1991, and has combined deep scientific expertise with a collaborative, systems-focused approach. Our model brings together global scientific leadership, predictive and preventative care initiatives, and contributions to research and talent development. This integrated approach allows us to deliver breakthrough therapies while supporting a more resilient, innovation-ready life sciences ecosystem.

Amgen's impact extends beyond medicine through our contributions to science education and the development of the next generation of scientists. Through bespoke programs run by the Amgen Foundation, we help strengthen STEM learning and expand opportunities for young innovators. The Amgen Biotech Experience brings biotechnology into classrooms, sparking curiosity in high school students, while the Amgen Scholars Program provides undergraduates with hands-on research opportunities at leading institutions such as the University of Toronto. In Canada, Amgen is also proud to serve as a National Health Partner of the ACT Foundation, helping train youth across the country in CPR and defibrillator use, and as a National Visionary Donor for Let's Talk Science, a charitable organization that advances STEM education and inspires youth engagement in science. Together, these initiatives reflect Amgen's commitment to inspiring discovery, empowering future innovators, and strengthening the life sciences ecosystem for years to come.

Amgen is committed to advancing outcomes-focused and resilient healthcare solutions in Ontario. We work collaboratively with healthcare providers, academic researchers, and system stakeholders to accelerate science, support efficiency, and uphold high standards of quality to ensure patients remain at the centre of care. This commitment is reflected in our long-standing presence in the province, which serves as a hub for much of our scientific activity in Canada, including clinical expertise and collaboration with leading research institutions and healthcare organizations. Ontario's strong and diverse life sciences ecosystem presents an established foundation for continued innovation and discovery, and Amgen is proud to be a part of that momentum.

Amgen is building for the future with a diverse pipeline of innovative medicines across General Medicine, Oncology, Inflammation, and Rare Disease. Looking ahead, we will continue to expand and accelerate development by harnessing biotechnology, AI, and machine learning. Our future growth will also come from continued investment in our people and communities. Our recognition as a 2025 LinkedIn Top Company reflects our focus on building a workplace where people can thrive, while our Amgen Foundation programs in Canada help support the future of science education. Together, these commitments ensure Amgen will continue to drive innovation, support our people, strengthen communities, and improve health outcomes for patients.

SPOTLIGHT

www.astellas.com

Headquarters:
Tokyo, Japan (global)
Markham (Canada)

Number of employees:
13,500+ employees globally

Focus Areas:
Astellas is a global life sciences company providing transformative therapies in disease areas that include oncology, urology, immunology and women's health.

"As a company, we are dedicated to changing the narrative around menopause. By fostering open dialogue and providing resources, we aim to support our employees through this natural stage of life."

- Sandra Heller, General Manager

Sandra Heller,
General Manager, Astellas

ASTELLAS PHARMA CANADA

Addressing Workplace Equity: Astellas Canada's Commitment to Menopause Inclusion

Challenging organizations and business leaders to prioritize menopause education and support

Menopause symptoms often coincide with life's peak demands, including in the workplace. One in four women will experience severely debilitating symptoms during menopause, impacting their productivity, career progression, and job satisfaction. According to the Menopause Foundation of Canada, unmanaged symptoms cost the Canadian economy an estimated $3.5 billion annually.

At Astellas Canada, we recognize that menopause is not just a personal health issue; it's a workplace equity issue that affects employee well-being and business success. With nearly all working women set to experience menopause, organizations must foster a menopause-inclusive environment. Our commitment is encapsulated in our 'Pledge to Champion a Menopause-Inclusive Workplace,' empowering everyone in our organization to break the stigma surrounding menopause and create a culture of understanding and support.

"As a company, we are dedicated to changing the narrative around menopause," says Sandra Heller, General Manager of Astellas Pharma Canada. "By fostering open dialogue and providing resources, we aim to support our employees through this natural stage of life."

Many barriers to care stem from the stigma associated with menopause, which discourages discussion, limits education and delays care. Understanding the magnitude of menopause's impact, the Astellas leadership team recognized the need for a different approach. While delivering innovative therapies remains the company's priority, we are also investing in education, training, and resources to create a supportive workplace for team members experiencing menopause.

"We are investing in menopause programs because it's the right thing to do," Heller adds. "Everyone deserves to feel heard and supported where they work."

Our recent Menopause Experience and Attitudes Study (MEAS) revealed that 31% of Canadians experiencing menopause feel their work is negatively affected, underscoring the urgent need for change. By advocating for menopause-inclusive workplaces, we encourage other organizations to prioritize menopause needs and equip their employees with the knowledge and tools to support colleagues navigating this life stage.

At Astellas, we believe that by addressing the unique challenges of menopause, we can create healthier, more inclusive workplaces for everyone. Together, we can transform the conversation around menopause and ensure that no one has to navigate this transition alone.

SPOTLIGHT

ASTRAZENECA CANADA

AstraZeneca expanding its leadership in biopharmaceutical research

Strengthening the Canadian health sciences industry and supporting patients

www.astrazeneca.ca

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
+500

Focus Areas:
Bio-Pharmaceutical

"AstraZeneca's future in Canada is bright as we expand our operations and advance great science, leveraging promising new technologies to benefit patients here at home and around the world. By building strong partnerships with government and local stakeholders, we are positioning Ontario as a world-class destination for R&D and clinical trials, driving scientific discovery and delivering real impact for patients everywhere."

- Gaby Bourbara, President, AstraZeneca Canada

For more than 70 years, AstraZeneca has advanced science to improve the lives of people with chronic diseases, redefined cancer care, and pioneered treatments for rare diseases. By unlocking the power of science, we deliver novel therapies and vaccines to meet evolving health needs, now and in the future. Our commitment is fueled by the impact we see in patients and our pursuit of better outcomes, transforming healthcare for people, society and the planet.

We are working in partnership to strengthen the country's health sciences industry, bring cutting-edge medicines to patients, and to support vital research. By leveraging local talent, collaborating with universities and research centres, and championing inclusivity and sustainability, AstraZeneca invests deeply in both science and the health ecosystem. This approach enables more than **120 global clinical studies and 100 local trials** to be led from our Mississauga hub.

We believe that science can transform the future of healthcare for the benefit of people, society and the planet. In Canada, our commitment to conducting clinical trials in this country means that Canadian patients can be among the first to benefit from ground-breaking medical advancements, sometimes years before they become widely available.

In 2025, AstraZeneca Canada announced an $820 million investment, creating 700 high-skilled jobs in the Greater Toronto Area, expanding our R&D Hub focused on cancer, COPD, severe asthma, and rare disease research. This strategic investment, alongside the Government of Ontario's $16M contribution, enhances job opportunities, advances global research, and strengthens partnerships with government and non-profits, further strengthening Ontario's ambition of becoming a global life sciences leader.

Alongside our $3B Fusion Pharmaceuticals acquisition and strategic partnerships, we've committed over $1.3B and 1,200 new jobs since 2023.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Gaby Bourbara, President, AstraZeneca Canada, announce an $820 million investment in Canada

SPOTLIGHT

ATABAZH MEDICAL INC.

Smart Lung Physio™: Helping People Breathe Easier, One Breath at a Time

From a moment in the ICU to innovation in Ontario — a 10+ year journey to make chest therapy simpler, safer, and more human. Story told from experience of Ali Abedinpour, Founder & CEO

www.atabazh.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
MedTech

"Smart Lung Physio is not just a piece of technology. It's the result of more than a decade of work, a moment in the ICU that changed my path, and the new beginning I found in Canada through the Startup Visa Program. My mission is simple: to help people breathe more easily and to give caregivers peace of mind."

- Ali Abedinpour, Founder & CEO

More than ten years ago, before I came to Canada, I stood in an ICU watching a patient fight for every breath. A nurse was doing chest therapy by hand, trying to clear the lungs. It was hard work, tiring for both patient and nurse, and when it didn't work well, the result was often a dangerous lung infection. I still remember that moment. It showed me how badly a better solution was needed.

Three years ago, I came to Canada through the Startup Visa Program, bringing this idea with me. Soon after, I saw the same problem again in long-term care (LTC) homes, where older adults were struggling with the very same issue. Families and caregivers were doing their best, but the method hadn't changed — still manual, still unreliable. That's when Smart Lung Physio™ started to take shape as a real answer.

The idea was simple: make therapy easier, faster, and more trustworthy. What used to take 45 minutes can now be done in just 15 minutes. And for the first time, the device shows if the treatment is actually working. Caregivers, families, and patients no longer have to wonder — they can see it.

We're starting with older adults in Ontario's LTC homes, but the need goes far beyond that. People living with COPD, ALS, cystic fibrosis, or those recovering from major surgery, all face the same daily challenge of clearing their lungs. Smart Lung Physio™ was built for them too.

For patients, it means breathing a little easier and living with more comfort. For caregivers and nurses, it means less strain and more certainty. And for the healthcare system, it means fewer infections, fewer readmissions, and lower costs.

The journey has been long, but I've never walked it alone. Over the years, my team and I have built and tested several prototypes. We earned a grant from ElevateIP, received guidance and support from MaRS and H2i, and filed a U.S. patent. Today, as a graduate student in Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), I'm learning how to grow this project from a lab idea into a business that can reach people across Ontario and beyond.

The next step is to start pilots in Ontario LTC homes, working directly with residents, nurses, and physiotherapists to test and improve the device. My vision is clear: no one should have to struggle alone just to breathe — and every LTC facility, clinic, and hospital should one day have a Smart Lung Physio™ at the bedside.

SPOTLIGHT

Banting Discovery Foundation

www.bantingdiscoveryfoundation.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Health NGO

"I'm delighted that the Banting Discovery Foundation funds such excellent internationally appreciated research. It is so important that Canada should know about this foundation as a legacy of Banting's work. It should be taught at school; it's a piece of Canadian history."

-Nona Mary Macdonald Heaslip, C.M., B.A., L.L.D. (Hon), D.S.Litt.(Hon), 1930-2024
The William & Nona Heaslip Foundation, Donor to the Foundation

BANTING DISCOVERY FOUNDATION

A Century of Discovery

One idea, one researcher, one breakthrough at a time

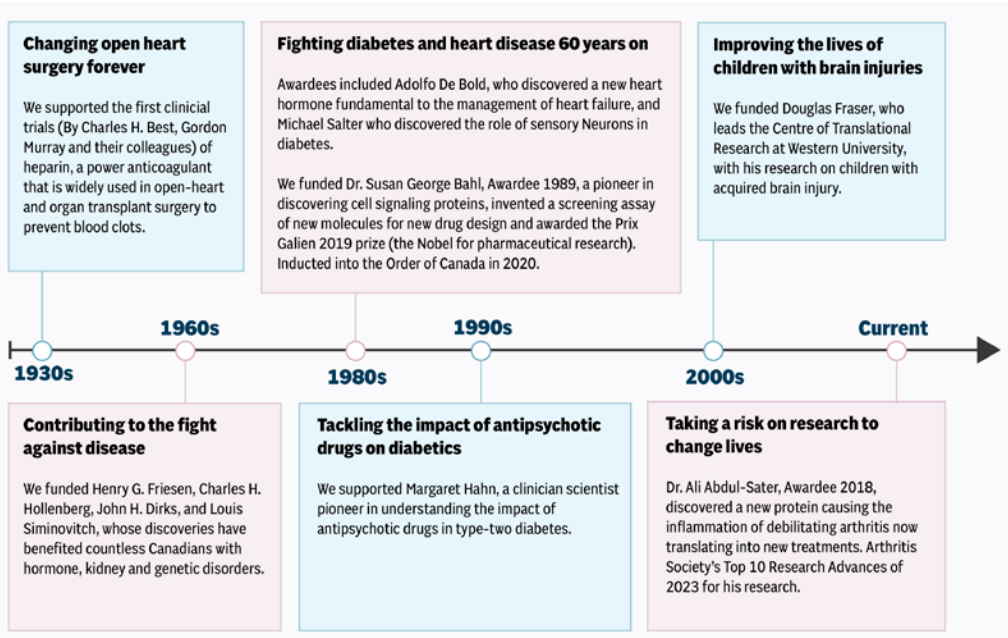
A century ago, Frederick Banting was a young researcher with a vision: to isolate insulin as a treatment for diabetes. His discovery transformed medicine and saved millions of lives, embodying the spirit of bold, early-stage research that the Banting Discovery Foundation has championed for 100 years. Yet Banting's journey also reveals persistent barriers faced by emerging scientists: limited funding, scarce mentorship, and a research ecosystem averse to risk. In response, the Banting Discovery Foundation was established in 1925 to support early career researchers and their pioneering ideas.

We do what others often won't. While traditional funders shy away from high-risk projects, especially from early career researchers, we lean into them. Through our Discovery Awards and Mentorship Program, we provide not only seed funding but also surround awardees with seasoned researchers, industry experts, and a vibrant peer network. This combination of resources and mentorship helps our scientists push boundaries and pursue ideas that can change lives.

Our impact is undeniable. We've supported 1,385 early-career researchers across 40 Canadian universities. Nearly 90% go on to secure national research grants from Canada's major federal funding agencies. Their work has earned them some of the nation's highest honours: 37 have been appointed to the Order of Canada, 17 have received Canada Gairdner Awards, and 25 have been inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. Our awardees have reshaped healthcare — from developing cancer treatments with Cobalt-60 to advancing vaccine production and improving brain health through exercise.

We've gained leverage through collaboration. Partnerships with Mitacs, the Ontario Brain Institute, and leading philanthropic foundations have expanded and deepened our impact. These alliances prove the power of working together to fuel innovation.

What's Next? We're tackling global challenges like climate change, infectious diseases, and chronic conditions that strain health systems worldwide. By empowering early career researchers and equipping them with emerging technologies like genomics and AI, we aim to accelerate discoveries that will redefine healthcare. The spirit of Banting lives on – in every young scientist we support, and every life improved by their work.



SPOTLIGHT

BAYER INC.

www.bayer.ca

Year founded:
1863

Headquarters:
Germany

Number of employees:
90,000+ globally
1,000+ in Canada

Sectors:
Pharmaceuticals, Consumer Health Products, Agriculture

Bayer is a 150+ year-old life sciences pioneer committed to advancing innovation across the areas of health and nutrition as part of its global mission to enable "Health for All, Hunger for None." The company aims to enhance health and wellbeing for current and future generations in all the markets it operates in globally, focused on ensuring everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive. The company has three distinct business areas:

- **Pharmaceuticals (and radiology):** Innovative medicines that treat serious health conditions including cancers, heart problems, eye diseases and women's health needs. The company is also a world leader in diagnostic imaging solutions, providing innovations that enable healthcare teams to address the radiology challenges of today, including increased patient volumes, staff shortages, and the need for efficient data management.
- **Consumer Health:** Empowering consumers to take charge of their health with trusted and iconic brands that address everyday health concerns, including pain management, cardiovascular risk prevention, digestive health, and allergy relief**.**
- **Crop Science (Agriculture):** Collaborating with and serving farmers to drive innovation across five technology platforms (Plant Breeding; Biotechnology; Crop Protection; Biologicals; and Data Science). Bayer is committed to helping Canadian farmers adapt to climate change and improve food security through research and development in crop protection, biotechnology and precision agriculture.

Bayer has been committed to supporting innovation access in Canada for more than a century and we live up to this commitment investing more than more than $100 million annually into local research collaborations intended to evaluate our medicines and agricultural technologies for the betterment of the communities we serve.

Pharmaceuticals:
Each year, Bayer's medicines support the needs of more than 1 million Canadians across critical therapeutic areas such as oncology, cardiology, nephrology, ophthalmology and women's health. The company also enables over 800,000 contrast-enhanced exams annually across various medical fields, including interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, CT, MRI, and contrast-enhanced mammography.

We also evaluate our innovations locally as a founding sponsor of the Canadian Heart Function Alliance and also a sponsor of the Accelerating Clinical Trials initiative.

Over the next couple of years, Bayer intends to further expand its role as a leader in oncology, cardiology, nephrology and women's health while also driving the advancement of new medical imaging technologies.

In the area of women's health, Bayer is expanding its long-standing role in women's health into menopause. A recent study by the Menopause Foundation of Canada found that unmanaged symptoms of menopause are estimated to cost the Canadian economy $3.5 billion every year, largely due to lost days of work or leaving the workplace altogether.

Through its subsidiary BlueRock Therapeutics, who also has a major footprint in Ontario, Bayer is looking to make strides in clinical research focused on Cell and Gene therapies.

Bayer is also seeking to redefine the standard of care for contrast-enhanced MRI examinations for all body regions in both adults and children, including newborns.

Crop Science:
Bayer continues to evaluate its crop science technologies and products through several research sites across Canada, including five in Ontario (Guelph x2, Tavistock, Chatham and Tillsonburg). With over $250m in annual business activity in the province, Bayer is anticipating the launch of new technologies in Ontario by 2027 offering several benefits for growers including increased yield potential and improved field accessibility.

The Future
Bayer is poised to continue its trajectory of growth and innovation, with a strong emphasis on sustainability, social responsibility and partnership. The company continues to invest in cutting-edge technologies such precision oncology, biotechnology and digital farming and remains committed to working with partners across the country to evaluate how it can better support Canadians.

SPOTLIGHT

www.bd.com/en-ca

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
MedTech

"Mackenzie Health is committed to continually enhancing the way we deliver safe, quality care, with a clear focus on zero harm — because even one error is one too many. Our investment in a single, connected smart infusion pump platform allows for seamless two-way integration with our electronic medical record, creating efficiencies, strengthening safeguards and supporting the safe administration of medication. Most importantly, this technology helps improve outcomes for those who trust us with their care, while giving our clinicians more time to do what they do best — care for patients."

-Purvi Desai, Vice President, Digital Health and Chief Information Officer

"Using intelligent, innovative technology and medical devices that communicate with each other allows staff and physicians more time to dedicate to patient care. We are happy to partner with Mackenzie Health and anticipate collaborating with other health organizations across Canada for similar integrations."

- Blair Laufman, BD-Canada Medication Management Solutions Vice President

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

BD-CANADA

BD is one of the largest global medical technology companies in the world and is advancing the world of health™ by improving medical discovery, diagnostics and the delivery of care. The company develops innovative technology, services and solutions that help advance both clinical therapy for patients and clinical processes for health care providers. BD helps customers enhance outcomes, lower costs, increase efficiencies, improve safety, and expand access to health care. Throughout Canada, BD maintains a corporate head office and distribution centre in Mississauga and a manufacturing and technical service centre in Quebec City. Across the country, BD employs over 1,000 associates.

Leveraging Interoperability to Deliver the Right Medication at the Right Time

Infusion therapy is a critical component of patient care, yet manual programming of IV pumps has long posed risks of medication errors and inefficiencies. Mackenzie Health, serving one of Canada's fastest growing and most diverse communities in Ontario's western York Region, recognized the need to modernize this process. Inspired by its commitment to high reliability and zero harm, the hospital system sought a solution that would enhance safety, streamline workflows, and improve outcomes.

In partnership with BD-Canada, Mackenzie Health became the first hospital system in Canada to implement BD Alaris™ EMR Interoperability. The technology enables bidirectional communication between infusion pumps and the Epic EMR system. Through a series of QR code scans—patient wristband, medication barcode, and pump—clinicians can seamlessly connect electronic medication orders to IV pumps. This eliminates manual entry, reduces keystrokes by up to 86%, and ensures accurate, real-time documentation.

This integration enables clinicians to concentrate more on patient care and less on administrative duties, which is especially important given the ongoing health human resource challenges faced by many healthcare institutions. By streamlining workflows and reducing the time spent on manual tasks, the solution addresses these staffing pressures and helps healthcare professionals use their limited time and resources more efficiently.

Bidirectional interoperability also enhances medication safety, reduces the risk of infusion errors, and supports personalized treatment. Patients benefit from timely and accurate medication delivery, as well as improved clinical outcomes. Mackenzie Health's leadership sets a precedent for other Canadian healthcare institutions. Since launching in April 2024, the initiative has garnered national attention. The hospital maintained its Accreditation with Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada, reinforcing its dedication to quality care.

BD-Canada remains committed to supporting this vision with scalable, smart technologies that advance the future of care.

SPOTLIGHT

BioCanRx
Canada's Immunotherapy Network
Le réseau canadien d'immunothérapie

www.biocanrx.com

Headquarters:
Ottawa, Canada

"Investing in translational research is not just good health policy—it is smart economic and social policy. It allows critical, life-saving research to move from the lab bench to the clinic. It directly contributes to an increase in clinical trials available. It contributes to the economic strength and growth of our life sciences sector."

- Stéphanie Michaud, President and CEO, BioCanRx

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

BIOCANRX

While approximately 70% of Canada's $500M annual cancer research investment goes to early-stage research, promising therapies have often languished in Canada without targeted funding to move discoveries forward. Since 2015, BioCanRx has been responding to this national gap in the development and adoption of health innovations.

A bridge between discovery and clinical trial delivery, BioCanRx enables a thriving ecosystem where researchers, clinicians, industry, patients, and policymakers collaborate to move promising innovations from bench to bedside. Through targeted investments, strategic partnerships, and training opportunities, BioCanRx is building the foundation for Canada to lead in biotherapeutics development while benefiting our most important stakeholder: cancer patients.

A 5-year $38M investment from the Government of Canada's Strategic Science Fund in 2024 recognized the strength of our coordinated approach to advancing cancer immunotherapies and our alignment with health and life sciences priorities.

Our Impacts 2015-2025 (nationally):

- 411 patients treated
- 16 made-in-Canada clinical trials.
- 43 novel therapeutics and approaches advanced to the clinic.
- $150M+ leveraged from 58 industry partners.
- 785 Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) participated in training
- 8 spinouts

In Ontario:

- $22.8M invested in projects led by 52 researchers
- 36 Ontario-based funding partners.
- 15 clinical trials with sites in Ontario - 4 in 2024-2025
- 6 spinouts
- Operational investments in the Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI)

In 2024-2025 20 new BioCanRx investments (12 led by Ontario-based researchers) leveraged additional funding from private sector partners – ensuring projects have the resources and financial means required to bridge the translational research phase. And four of our current investments – all led by Ontario based researchers – are working with Ontario based industry partners: CuroV Science Inc., and Genvira, and BioCanRx funded project spinouts Esphera - founded by researchers at the Ottawa Hospital/University of Ottawa and McMaster University, and Virica Biotech - founded by Jean-Simon Diallo at the OHRI.

SPOTLIGHT

Biocon Biologics™
www.bioconbiologics.com

Countries:
More than 120 countries around the world.

Year founded:
1978

Number of employees:
Approximately 5,000 globally

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals

Key Wins:
Biocon Biologics Receives Health Canada Approval for Yesafili™

BIOCON BIOLOGICS

Biocon Biologics is a fully integrated global biosimilars company committed to expanding access to safe, effective, and affordable biologic medicines for patients worldwide. From R&D to manufacturing and commercialization, it operates across the entire value chain to deliver therapies for chronic and life-threatening diseases.

A biosimilar is a biological product that is highly similar to an already-approved medication. They are intended to increase patients' access to valuable medications, as they are priced lower than branded, novel biologics. They ensure greater and more equitable access to biologic therapies and to healthcare generally. In Canada, biosimilars are at the center of various switching initiatives, which aim to reduce drug costs and improve patient access.

As one of the world's leading biosimilars companies, Biocon Biologics' mission is rooted in the belief that these therapies are key to ensuring equitable access to life-sustaining medicines, and it strives to bridge treatment gaps worldwide through affordable innovation.

Biocon Biologics' commercial reach extends to 120+ countries, including Advanced Markets such as North America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and 32 European nations, as well as over 80 Emerging Markets.

Biocon Biologics offers a unique and comprehensive portfolio of biosimilars, spanning insulins, monoclonal antibodies, and therapeutic proteins, aimed at treating diabetes, cancer, autoimmune diseases, and serious eye disorders.

With an unwavering commitment to quality, affordability, and access, Biocon Biologics is setting new benchmarks in its mission to advance health equity worldwide.

The company is challenging the status quo by putting patients first to make a long-term social impact. We are leveraging our affordable innovation model to reduce disparities in access to care and increase savings for high-quality medicines.

Biosimilars offer a tremendous opportunity to provide affordable access to advanced therapies for patients while generating significant savings for healthcare systems, thereby enhancing sustainability. In Canada alone, biosimilars have the potential to save the healthcare system over $1.8 billion annually. Given the unique and complex nature of Canada's healthcare system, we are actively collaborating with regulatory bodies, healthcare providers, and the advocacy community to foster the growth of the biosimilar ecosystem for the benefit of patients.

Delivering on social impact is part of our DNA, and we are committed to building collaborations that create meaningful results.

Factors Contributing to Success
Providing affordable, high-quality medications that improve Canadian patients' lives and support their care aligns with our core mission to transform healthcare by making the healthcare system more sustainable.

Biocon Biologics' involvement in advocacy efforts emphasizes our commitment to improving healthcare for all Canadians. We are proud partners of organizations including Biosimilars Canada, BioQuébec, the Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution (CAPDM), Health Products Stewardship Association, Life Sciences Ontario and the Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association.

Key Wins
We have launched eight biosimilars in Canada, making an impact on patients' lives in treatment areas such as diabetes, oncology, immunology, ophthalmology and more. Biocon Biologics' robust product pipeline includes more than 20 biosimilars that are approved or in development, with fully integrated lab-to-market capabilities that will continue to address where we can provide value to patients around the world. With dozens of biologics losing patent protection between 2025 and 2029, we see the opportunity to transform healthcare by providing the life-improving medications that patients need.

Looking Forward
Biocon Biologics in Canada is proud to be established as a company in Canada and looks forward to building on the company's momentum, collaborating with stakeholders in the healthcare system to support healthy outcomes for patients and create sustainability.

SPOTLIGHT

BIOENTERPRISE CANADA

Driving Canada's Agri-Tech Future

Celebrating 5 years of The Engine: Bridging innovation to adoption across Canada and beyond

www.bioenterprise.ca

Country:
Canada

Year founded:
2003

Number of employees:
30

Sector:
Agri-Food

"As The Engine turns five and we reflect on our progress, we're also looking ahead. We're doubling down on our mission to close the gap between research and adoption, while creating opportunities for prosperity. By connecting innovators, investors, and partners across provinces and internationally, we're ensuring Canadian agri-tech companies don't just survive, but scale and lead globally."

- Dave Smardon, President & CEO

Canada has world-class agricultural research, but too often those breakthroughs stall before reaching farms, processors, and markets. Five years ago, Bioenterprise created Canada's Food & Agri-Tech Engine to bridge that gap, accelerating the journey from innovation to adoption.

The Engine's model is unique: a national consortium of innovators, partners, and investors collaborating across provinces and regions to address fragmentation, strengthen commercialization pathways, and prioritize productivity, diversification, and competitiveness. From startups to scaling SMEs, The Engine translates high-potential ideas into impactful, market-ready solutions that meet pressing food security, sustainability, and climate challenges.

Focused on creating new jobs, attracting investment, and expanding trade, momentum has been strong. The team continues to lead the National Call to Action initiative, convening leaders to address gaps in Canada's innovation-to-commercialization pipeline. In 2025, The Engine officially launched the Farmer Innovation Advisory Group (FIAG), amplifying farmers' voices in innovation design and adoption. Flagship programs including the Grow Ontario Accelerator Hub (GOAH), Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative (OAFRI) Commercialization Stream, and Sustainable Growth and Adoption Program (SGAP) remain core drivers of support, while export readiness and interprovincial expansion are emerging objectives. This year marks the fifth anniversary of The Engine, a milestone celebrated through a campaign, #TheEngineTurns5, underscoring the strength of a collaborative, national approach.

Looking ahead, Bioenterprise is committed to scaling supports nationwide, expanding international and interprovincial trade opportunities for member companies, and advancing clean-tech and artificial intelligence (AI) priorities that will shape the future of agriculture. By strengthening ties with national and international partners, The Engine is positioning Canada's agri-tech innovators to compete and lead on the world stage.

SPOTLIGHT

BIOHUBNET

Empowering Canada's Biomanufacturing Workforce

BioHubNet is shaping the next generation of industry-ready talent through immersive training, internships, and entrepreneurial support.

www.biohubnet.ca

Canada's biomanufacturing and life sciences sector faces a critical talent shortage. By 2029, it is projected that only one-quarter of the skilled workforce required will be available, jeopardizing daily operations and Canada's ability to respond to future health crises. Ontario hosts the country's largest biomedical research cluster, produces a large share of Canada's STEM graduates, and is home to global biomanufacturing leaders, placing the province at the center of both the challenge and the opportunity. Funded in 2024 through the Canada Biomedical Research Fund, BioHubNet was created to tackle this head-on. Headquartered at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, BioHubNet equips the next generation of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and laboratory technicians with practical, industry-aligned skills to meet Ontario's immediate workforce needs and build a sustainable talent pipeline for Canada's biomanufacturing future.

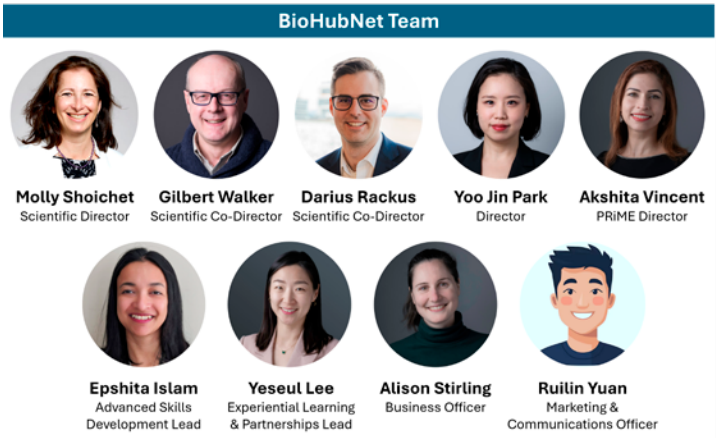
BioHubNet is built around three pillars: ENGAGE (curated skills training), EXPERIENCE (internship placements), and EQUIP (entrepreneurial support). This model goes beyond traditional academic pathways by immersing trainees in real-world contexts and providing targeted resources to help them transition seamlessly from academia to the demands of today's fast-moving industry.

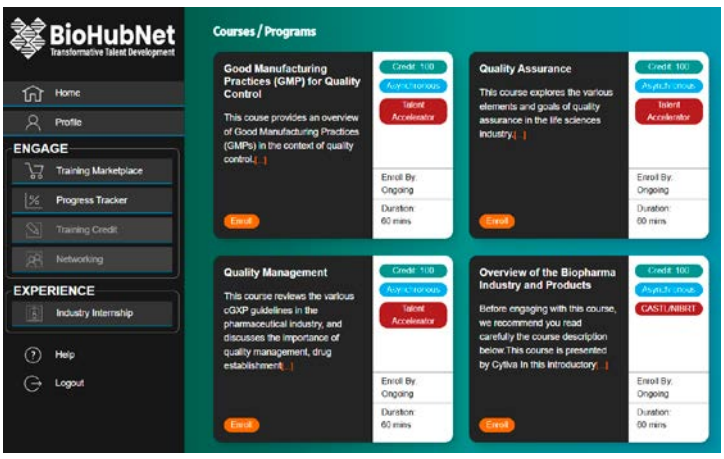
BioHubNet launched online in mid-2025 at https://biohubnet.ca/. Since then, the training platform attracted more than 400 participants, including over 100 enrolled in the ENGAGE program, where trainees access industry-relevant training in areas such as GMP, regulatory affairs, and business skills, while expanding their professional networks through virtual sessions with industry leaders. Through the EXPERIENCE program, 22 employers across Ontario, from SMEs to global enterprises, are gaining access to a growing pipeline of skilled talent. In addition, EQUIP program has fueled 19 startups with targeted funding, empowering trainee-entrepreneurs to advance innovations toward market readiness.

BioHubNet launched with 13 academic partners across Ontario and 15 industry partners nationwide. Since then, the network has expanded to include 9 additional partners, with more continuing to join to co-develop specialized training, internship opportunities, and entrepreneurial support.

Looking ahead, BioHubNet wants to connect with you!

BioHubNet is scaling its programs nationwide, growing its network of partners, and broadening the range of industry-relevant training available. Over the coming years, BioHubNet will support more than 1,000 trainees, cultivating a strong workforce to meet sector demands and help position Canada as a global leader in biomanufacturing and life sciences.





SPOTLIGHT

CANADIAN HOSPITAL SPECIALTIES LIMITED

A dedicated partner in supporting Canadian healthcare

Providing high-quality medical devices and innovative solutions to hospitals and healthcare providers across the country for over 57 years.

www.chsltd.com

Headquarters:
Oakville, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Medical Devices

We are looking to be Canada's premier provider of trusted medical devices. We began this journey over 57 years ago, however, we've been more inspired through COVID and now the tariff challenges to make sure we can bolster the Canadian medical devices supply chain.

CHS's world class manufacturing facility has 4 Environmentally Controlled Rooms (ECRs). Each of the rooms is equipped with automated thermoform packaging production lines that are operated by highly trained employees. Additionally, we have extrusion capabilities for medical and non-medical grade requirements. CHS has institutionalized an effective new product introduction (NPI) process for rapid production ramp-up that includes inputs from the customer, sales, engineering, manufacturing, and quality.

CHS holds multiple certifications and licenses allowing us to be a 'one stop shop' for all your import/export, distribution & manufacturing needs.

Those who benefit from our work are those in the acute hospital and non-acute healthcare space in Canada and Internationally.

In August 2025, the Canadian healthcare supply chain was faced with a global shortage of filtered IV extension sets that threatened to shutdown NICUs across the country. CHS received the call to assist and within 48 hours, was able to re-tool and begin production of these sets domestically and keep NICUs open. We're still currently producing these products and have become a valued partner in the Canadian market.

The vision of CHS is to continue investing in the Burlington/Oakville area to expand its facilities to develop innovative, cost-effective solutions that strengthen the supply chain right here in Ontario.

SPOTLIGHT

CANADIAN ALLIANCE FOR SKILLS AND TRAINING IN LIFE SCIENCES (CASTL)

CASTL Elevate's Lasting Ontario Impact

How a Six-Week Training Program Fast-Tracked Ontario Residents into Biomanufacturing Careers

www.castlcanada.ca/en

Headquarters: Charlottetown, Canada

Number of employees: 0-50

Focus Areas: Biomanufacturing workforce training

Key Wins

Proven Impact in Six Weeks
- 115+ Ontario graduates trained
- 96% confident applying skills
- 90% gained needed technical expertise

Reflecting Ontario's Workforce
- 66% racialized groups
- 53% newcomers
- 46% women
- 42% under 35

Participant Satisfaction
- 97% rated experience positively
- 96% would recommend Elevate

"The impact of CASTL Elevate will be felt for years to come. By fast-tracking skilled, diverse talent into careers, we've strengthened Ontario's workforce and created a blueprint for building capacity across Canada."

- Penny Walsh-McGuire, CEO, CASTL

The Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences (CASTL) is Canada's biomanufacturing training partner, dedicated to developing skilled talent to drive the country's biomanufacturing sector. With state-of-the-art, GMP-simulated facilities nationwide, CASTL delivers hands-on, industry-informed training and flexible online learning.

As Canada's exclusive provider of National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) programs, CASTL offers world-class education with support from adMare BioInnovations and its adMare Academy, shaping the next generation of biomanufacturing professionals.

Our Impact

Just six weeks. That's all it took for Hajira Ahmed Hotiana to transition from academic research to vaccine production at Sanofi. In the same time, Diae el Azhari gained Canadian experience, expanded regulatory expertise, and secured a role at InQure Health. Meanwhile, Elena Gamanyuk transformed her international career into a Canadian quality assurance role at Resilience.

Stories like these are increasingly common thanks to CASTL Elevate, a national program that turned underemployed Canadians—including newcomers, youth, and internationally trained professionals—into job-ready technicians. With industry-informed training, GMP experience, and a commitment to diversity, Elevate filled Ontario's urgent talent need while unlocking opportunities for underrepresented groups.

With Canada aiming to add 16,000 professionals by 2029, CASTL Elevate met the challenge with fast, inclusive training that equipped workers with in-demand skills while closing equity gaps.

Barriers to Success

Despite skills and ambition, many underemployed Canadians face steep barriers. Lacking Canadian GMP experience often excludes them.

Elevate removed these obstacles for 243 Canadians (including over 115 Ontarians) by:

- Bridging the experience gap with technical training and job readiness coaching.
- Overcoming geographic and scheduling limits with blended delivery: virtual, self-paced, and a one-week lab.
- Removing financial and logistical hurdles with flexible supports.

Employer-Aligned

Curriculum blended GMP skills, professional development, and job readiness, ensuring graduates required minimal onboarding.

Looking Forward

CASTL Elevate proves building a skilled workforce doesn't require years—it requires the right training. Backed by Upskill Canada and the Government of Canada, Elevate delivers employer-ready talent in six weeks, reducing vacancy costs, accelerating onboarding, and strengthening resilience.

With 25+ employers already hiring, Elevate offers a scalable blueprint for workforce development, filling critical labour gaps while advancing diversity, equity, and innovation.

SPOTLIGHT

www.ccrm.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Advanced Therapies and biomanufacturing

"At CCRM and OmniaBio, we're not just building facilities — we're building the future of medicine and Canada's place within that future. By uniting cutting-edge science with world-class manufacturing, we're accelerating the delivery of transformative therapies to patients who need them most, in Canada and around the world."

- Michael May, President and CEO, CCRM

CCRM

CCRM and OmniaBio: Powering the Future of Regenerative Medicine in Ontario and Beyond

By bridging science and manufacturing, this powerhouse partnership is accelerating cell and gene therapy breakthroughs from bench to bedside.

The Problem

Cell and gene therapies (CGTs) hold the potential to cure some of the world's most devastating diseases — from rare genetic disorders to cancer. Yet, too many promising therapies stall in development due to complex, costly, and fragmented manufacturing pathways. Inspired by the urgent need to improve scalability, patient access and to support domestic manufacturing, CCRM launched OmniaBio as a purpose-built solution to these industry bottlenecks.

The Approach

CCRM is a globally recognized leader in developing regenerative medicine technologies, while OmniaBio Inc., its commercial-stage spin-out, brings large-scale manufacturing muscle to the equation. What sets them apart is their integrated model: translating scientific innovation into robust, GMP-grade manufacturing within a single ecosystem. Opened in October 2024, OmniaBio's 120,000 sq. ft. CGT facility in Hamilton, Ontario, is the largest in Canada. It is a groundbreaking development for both the Canadian biotech industry and the broader global market and is designed specifically to scale therapies efficiently without compromising quality.

The Impact

Patients are the ultimate beneficiaries of these advanced therapies — especially those suffering from rare or currently untreatable diseases. By accelerating therapy development and lowering production costs, CCRM and OmniaBio are helping companies bring life-changing treatments to market faster. Researchers, biotech startups, and large pharmaceutical companies also benefit from the expert support, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and end-to-end services.

Key Wins and Partnerships

Backed by over $40 million in funding from the Government of Ontario and a significant investment from global investors, OmniaBio is creating advanced manufacturing jobs – combined, the companies have 300+ employees and counting – and building a robotics and AI-enabled center of excellence to intensify manufacturing and help therapeutic developers achieve cost reductions and significantly increase production rates compared to conventional CDMO approaches. OmniaBio has forged strategic partnerships with domestic and international biotech firms, while CCRM has collaborated with over 100 companies worldwide and boasts a track record of successful technology translation.

The Vision Ahead

Together, CCRM and OmniaBio envision a future where CGTs are accessible, affordable and delivered at scale. With global demand surging, their goal is to establish Canada as a world leader in advanced therapy manufacturing — turning today's breakthroughs into tomorrow's cures.

SPOTLIGHT

CONESTOGA
BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH
& INNOVATION HUB

www.research.conestogac.on.ca

Headquarters:
Kitchener, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Biotechnology and Biosciences

"What makes us unique is our collaborative approach to our partners' needs. We want to become an extension of their technical department,"

- Nicole Detlor, Director of the BioHub

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

CONESTOGA BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH & INNOVATION HUB

Innovation Unleashed: Powering Life Sciences from Lab to Market

The Conestoga Biotechnology Research & Innovation Hub (BioHub) is transforming the biotechnology sector by connecting academic expertise with industry solutions.

Biotech companies often struggle with limited access to advanced equipment, funding, and technical expertise. Conestoga's BioHub was created to address these challenges and support Ontario's growing biotechnology sector by providing accessible, high-impact research and development (R&D) opportunities.

The BioHub uses a partner-centric model that combines advanced equipment with the unique strengths of Conestoga's applied research environment. The BioHub not only offers access to advanced instrumentation and Biosafety Level 2 facilities, but also the academic expertise of faculty researchers. Companies can also benefit from grant funding which helps offset project costs, making innovation more accessible and scalable. This blend of resources, expertise, and funding support empowers companies to advance research in food, agriculture, life sciences, and environmental biotechnology. It also offers students hands-on experience with advanced technologies and real-world challenges, fostering an innovation mindset.

"This hub helps companies develop new products, improve existing ones, and accelerate commercialization," said Dr. Michelle Chrétien, VP of Research & Innovation. "The BioHub will be a key ecosystem connector supporting the growth of a robust regional industry."

In its first six months, the BioHub has already supported diverse projects. From bioremediation and biofuel production to regenerative agriculture and medtech product development, the BioHub's projects are advancing sustainability, public health, and food systems.

The BioHub aims to be Ontario's leading applied research destination, partnering with businesses of all sizes. Future plans include expanding health innovation, strengthening strategic partnerships, and integrating research into more student's academic journey. By tapping into Waterloo Region's innovation ecosystem, the BioHub seeks to unlock local potential and drive global impact.

SPOTLIGHT

craftscience.ca

Headquarters:
King City, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Medical Communications

"When the science tells a story, it doesn't get stuck on the bench - it changes the world."
- Dr. Anna Vainshtein, Founder & Director

Anna Vainshtein,
Founder & Director, Craft Science Inc.

CRAFT SCIENCE INC.

Bringing Science to Life

We turn complex science into stories that resonate and inspire.

Spark
The medical and life sciences ecosystem is rife with groundbreaking discoveries that fail to reach their potential. Many of these failures are not rooted in the science itself, but in ineffective storytelling that fails to convey its significance and reach its intended audience. Craft Science Inc. (CSI), a life science communications agency based in GTA, was born out of the need to translate complex scientific data into clear, compelling stories, to help bridge the gap between discovery and action, ensuring life-saving innovations reach those who need them.

Approach
We combine scientific precision with the art of storytelling. From grants and peer-reviewed publications to continuing medical education (CME) programs, conference support, and market access strategies, we help democratize access to high-quality science communications. Our team integrates deep academic roots with extensive real-world medical writing experience, enabling us to consistently deliver high-impact results. Proudly woman-owned and led, we bring diverse perspectives and elevate underrepresented voices. This distinctive foundation provides a unique lens, allowing us to seamlessly blend empathy, technical precision and storytelling artistry.

Impact
We work to advance Canadian innovation by empowering life sciences teams spanning industry, academia, and non-profits, with the tools to engage meaningfully and authentically with healthcare providers, patients, and investors. Through collaborations with leading research institutions and health networks across Canada, CSI helps drive national knowledge translation initiatives. Rooted in Ontario's thriving life sciences community, we are dedicated to accelerating the success of the sector both nationally and abroad.

Momentum
Craft Science Inc. is gaining great momentum. We are deeply focused on expanding our partnerships, growing our portfolio, and enhancing our impact. At CSI, we measure our success by that of our clients. We have:

- Helped startups and research teams secure multimillion-dollar funding through award-winning grant proposals.
- Delivered bespoke Canadian market translations for pharmaceutical product launches.
- Amplified research by helping teams showcase their findings on the global stage.

Next
With a focus on clarity, creativity, and credibility, Craft Science Inc. is redefining how complex research transforms into meaningful action. Our reputation is built on a solid foundation of delivering on time, with precision, quality and integrity, and we are growing rapidly. We aim to remain a trusted bridge between science and society and are committed to strengthening the expansion of the Canadian life sciences ecosystem by supporting home-grown startups, pharmaceutical leaders, academia, and beyond.

SPOTLIGHT

DAZL INNOVATIONS INC.

Born through experience

Story told from the perspective of Laura Bosch, CEO at DAZL Innovations Inc. (The Lifty)

www.DAZLinnovations.com

Headquarters:
Cambridge, Ontario

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Healthcare

"The Product fully meets our needs…Your solution greatly facilitates their workflow"

- Denis L, Head of the Pharmacy Department at CHU Saint Justine Children's Hospital

Spark

I'm a Registered Nurse who sustained a Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) from removing the caps from IV and injectable medications. My husband is a Millwright and their motto is "If there is no tool for the job, make one!" Together we designed our first prototypes. 75% of Healthcare workers surveyed found cap removal difficult or painful and 80% said they would use the Lifty when it became available to them. RSIs of the hand and wrist are the second most common injury among Healthcare Workers, with more than 40% of Healthcare staff working with an unreported injury.

Approach

There is no tool on the market designed specifically for vial cap removal. I resorted to beer bottles openers and had to carry 3 different types just to accommodate the different cap sizes. These were the tools others resorted to as well.

Impact

I thought I would be impacting the Nursing Community, but it turns out Pharmacy Personnel love them more! Beyond that, patients on home therapy have reported difficulty in cap removal and would benefit from the Lifty and Corporations save money when investing in the Lifty.

Momentum

An independent assessment was done on the Lifty, showing up to a 90% reduction in forces needed for vial cap removal when using the Lifty. This results in a reduction of muscle fatigue and potential for increased productivity. They also completed a cost/benefit analysis showing a year over year reduction in costs when using the Lifty.

We have Lifty's being used in hospitals and pharmacies across Canada. The Lifty is being trialled in one of the largest Children's Hospitals in Canada and already being used in another.

We have partnerships with Mohawk MedBuy and HealthPRO.

Next

We look forward to partnering with distribution and pharma companies to make procurement and Lifty use an industry standard. The Lifty can be branded providing a value add for pharma companies as they distribute the Lifty to their customers.

SPOTLIGHT

Deep Breathe

www.deepbreathe.ai

Headquarters:
London, Ontario

Number of employees:
11

Focus Areas:
Diagnostics/ Lungs/ AI

DEEP BREATHE

Instant Diagnostics, Anywhere. In Any Hands.

Reimagining lung ultrasound with AI to democratize diagnostic power- so you can know sooner and act faster.

The diagnostic status quo is slow, expensive, and dependent on highly trained experts. Our founder, Dr. Rob Arntfield, a global leader in point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), saw a gap: life-saving imaging wasn't reaching those who needed it most. Inspired by years of teaching frontline clinicians and founding the POCUS fellowship, he asked- what if AI could bridge that gap?

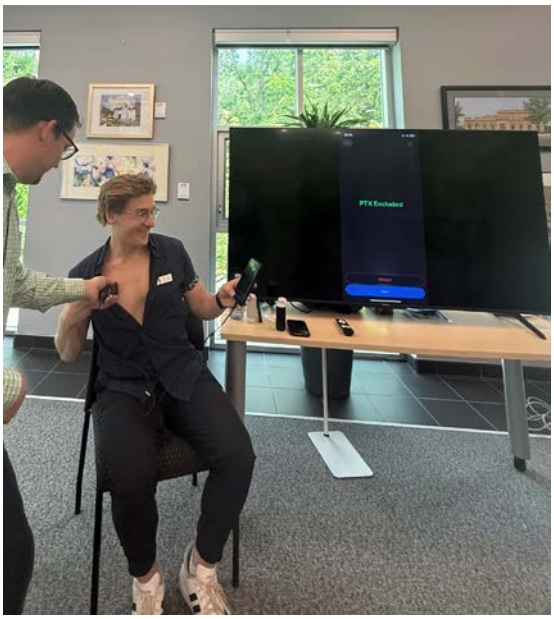
At Deep Breathe, we use the world's largest proprietary database of lung ultrasound images and have paired it with advanced machine learning to deliver instant, accurate lung detection of conditions such as pneumothorax, at the push of a button. Our device is portable, vendor-agnostic, and doesn't require internet connectivity. It can be used by anyone, anywhere: from physicians in hospitals, to medics on the battlefield, to vets in rural clinics.

By removing barriers of time, cost, and training, we're empowering a broader range of users to detect lung abnormalities early- improving outcomes for patients, animals, and entire healthcare systems. Our technology amplifies the capabilities of both experts and novice users, creating a ripple effect of better, faster care.

From a small research group of part-time clinicians and students, Deep Breathe has grown to 11 full-time staff across two offices. We've formed strategic partnerships with major healthcare and diagnostics players and took first place at the 2024 xTechInternational competition- recognizing us as a leading dual-use technology for both civilian and military applications.

We're focused on expanding access globally, continuing to scale our technology across clinical, military, and veterinary sectors. The goal: to become the new standard of care for lung diagnostics.

At the heart of Deep Breathe is a shared drive to push the limits of what's possible. Rob has often spoken about the common thread that brought our team together: a collective desire to find the edge of our abilities. That spirit—relentless curiosity, bold thinking, and a passion for changing the standard—continues to shape our vision and guide our path forward.



SPOTLIGHT

DELPHIC RESEARCH

www.delphicresearch.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Life Sciences Intelligence Monitoring and Knowledge Generation

"At Delphic Research, our mission is to transform intelligence into foresight. By combining human expertise with AI, we ensure our clients aren't just informed about today—they're prepared for what comes next."

- Jason Grier, President & CEO

Jason Grier,
President & CEO,
Delphic Research

DELPHIC RESEARCH INC.

Turning Complexity into Clarity

How Delphic Research is redefining intelligence monitoring

Spark

In today's world of information overload, decision-makers face a critical challenge: separating noise from insight. Delphic Research was founded in Ontario to solve this problem—transforming complexity into clarity for high-performance teams in the Canadian Life Sciences sector.

Approach

Our innovation lies in Argus, our proprietary AI-driven platform that goes beyond traditional media monitoring to deliver true intelligence monitoring. By combining automation, advanced analytics, a proprietary knowledge framework and a team of experienced writers and editors, Delphic Research turns vast streams of policy and market information into actionable insights customized to each client's specific priorities. Our clients don't miss a thing and are the first to know. We go to every source, every single day to get the intelligence on the big stories but also the obscure ones crucial to business decisions that are buried in social media, legislative Hansard, government websites, stakeholder communications, and more. The Executive Daily Briefing (EDB), our core product, is a customized digest of actionable intelligence, in your inbox each morning by 7:30 am.

Impact

From life sciences to health care delivery to energy and mining, our intelligence solutions empower organizations. In an era defined by too much data and too little knowledge, high-impact leaders need more than headlines — they need customized, actionable intelligence delivered with precision and speed. Delphic Research's Executive Daily Briefing (EDB) is a purpose-built solution that transforms how organizations navigate complexity and leverage opportunity.

Momentum

This year, we've achieved major milestones:

- Forged partnerships with leading pharmaceutical and medical device companies, industry associations, government bodies and agencies, and patient organizations.
- Expanded Argus across multiple regulated sectors like mining and energy.

SPOTLIGHT

dexcom G7

www.dexcom.com

"As an endocrinologist, I've seen firsthand how continuous glucose monitoring has transformed diabetes management. Managing diabetes is very personal, and being able to offer patients a choice on the most appropriate CGM technology with features tailored to help them meet their individualized care goals is critical."

- Dr. Alexander Abitbol, Endocrinologist & Assistant Medical Director, LMC Healthcare.

DEXCOM

Dexcom empowers people to take control of health through innovative biosensing technology

Founded in 1999, Dexcom has pioneered and set the standard in continuous glucose monitoring for more than 25 years. Its technology has transformed how people manage diabetes and track their glucose, helping them feel more in control and live more confidently.

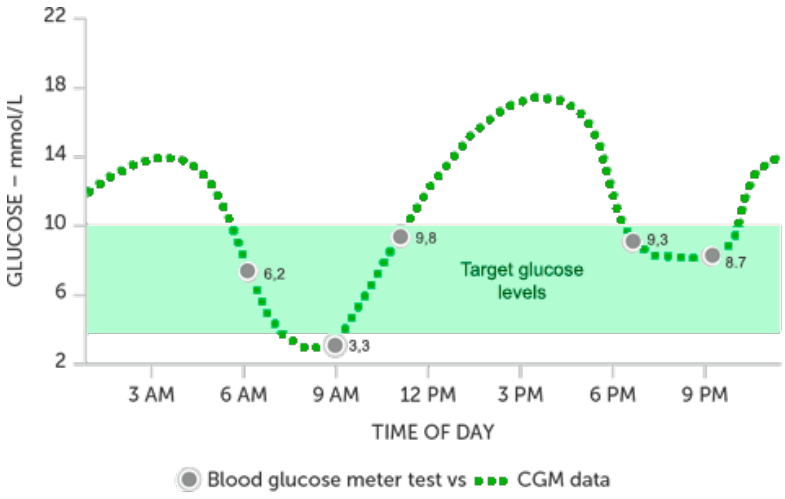
Dexcom applauds the Ontario government for its recent decision to include the Dexcom G7 Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) System as part of the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program for eligible Ontarians who manage their diabetes with insulin.

Dexcom G7 allows individuals to easily see their glucose levels in real-time to make more informed insulin treatment decisions. Users can see directly how medications affect their levels and gain insights on what keeps their glucose levels stable, empowering them to learn what works in order to feel their best and stay motivated over time. Discreet and easy to use, Dexcom G7 has unique features such as the Predictive Urgent Low Soon alert that can warn in advance of severe hypoglycemia and/or prolonged hyperglycemia for insulin therapy optimization.

This announcement represents a significant step forward for people managing diabetes in Ontario and their healthcare providers with expanded access to Dexcom's life-changing CGM technology. Prior to this announcement, less than 12,000 Ontarians were able to have their rtCGM funded by the Assistive Devices Program (ADP). Now that Dexcom G7 is covered under the ODB program, the projected number of Ontarians that are now eligible to access Dexcom G7 under ODB is estimated to be over 350,000 Ontarians.

Dexcom CGM Systems connect to more insulin delivery systems, digital health partners and connected devices than any other brand — making diabetes management more customizable and convenient than ever. Looking ahead, Dexcom is looking to leverage its data integration capabilities with EHR/EMR providers and digital health partners integrating patient level CGM data into their platforms.

Dexcom's strategic partnerships and plans for the future fit perfectly within the Ministry's priorities outlined in Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care and Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan



SPOTLIGHT

DigiBiomics
Data to Diagnose

www.digibiomics.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
HealthTech

"Every cough is a data point. Our job is to turn it into an early warning, so care starts sooner, not later."

-Dr. Meraj A. Khan, Co-Founder & Clinical Scientist

DIGIBIOMICS INC

LungSense: From Early Detection to Everyday Wellness

From coughs and X-rays to life-saving clinical decisions, anywhere

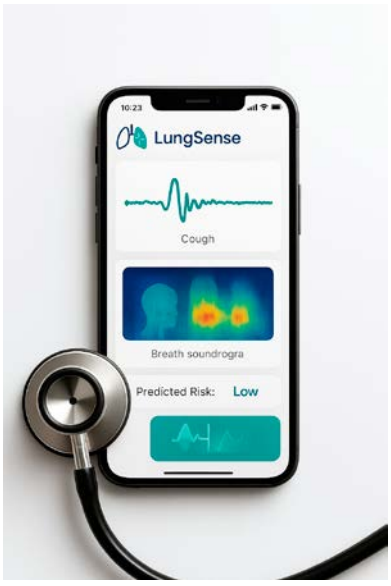
Spark:
Respiratory disease is a top global killer, yet patients still face misdiagnosis, limited access, and high costs. Early, accessible screening can shift outcomes from crisis to prevention reducing suffering, speeding triage, and easing health-system strain.

Approach:
LungSense fuses multimodal inputs, chest X-rays and other scans, acoustic biomarkers (cough/breath), and clinical data,into a single AI engine that delivers disease prediction, personalized triage, guideline-based next steps, and real-time monitoring. Designed for both home and hospital, LungSense emphasizes the "three A's": Accessibility (anyone, anywhere), Affordability (subscription/API at a fraction of current costs), and Accuracy (~95% target, with reduced misdiagnosis). It integrates with telehealth, pharmacy chains, and wearables, and supports a mobile app plus an optional home kit to enable proactive, continuous lung health.

Impact:
Patients and families get earlier answers; clinicians gain faster, clearer triage; health systems improve capacity and cost curves. Payers and public health programs can deploy scalable, privacy-preserving screening and monitoring, bringing equitable respiratory care closer to where people live.

Momentum:
A hospital pilot at St. Joseph's is underway for clinical validation. The roadmap advances through model optimization, pilot validation, IP and regulatory filings, then B2B launch (clinics, telehealth, diagnostic labs) and an initial B2C rollout. Partnerships focus on smart-device integration and distribution. The commercial plan targets a North American respiratory testing market with multi-billion TAM and staged SAM/SOM, backed by an ASK of US$2.5M (40% clinical validation, 30% product, 20% go-to-market, 10% legal/IP) to support launch and early expansion.

Next:
Our goal is simple and bold: bring LungSense into every home. We'll complete regulatory approvals (Health Canada/FDA), expand hospital and telehealth deployments, and scale internationally, while continuously refining the AI to widen condition coverage and deepen clinical utility.



SPOTLIGHT

DIGITS REHAB (SOON REBRANDING TO DIGITS HEALTH)

Precision rehab in the palm of your hand

Digits Health transforms smartphones into powerful rehabilitation tools for surgeons, patients, and healthcare providers.

Creating a new digital standard for hand and upper extremity assessment and rehabilitation, Digits Health turns any smartphone or laptop camera into clinical-grade hand and wrist assessment platform to deliver objective measurements of swelling, range of motion, and pain. Founded by Caitlin Symonette, this Ontario medtech venture is solving problems for surgeons, patients and health systems. For surgeons, the technology will help in early detection of complications; for patients, this will give them an objective view of their progress from the comfort of their homes; and for health systems, Digits Health's scalable technology will provide improved and standardized health outcomes data.

Leveraging augmented reality and artificial intelligence, Digits Health is revolutionizing the traditional approach of timely and inefficient in-person assessments through their readily available and accessible technology that only requires a smartphone and internet connection. Their innovation doesn't go unnoticed in the Canadian medtech landscape. Completing their initial pre-seed funding round, the venture also hired their first employee. With funding support from Intellectual Property Ontario, Digits Health is actively building its Intellectual Property strategy, preparing for patent filing. That's not all – the company is also designing real world proof of concept studies for their professional version called DIGITS PRO.

Focused on their vision of becoming a global leader in hand assessment and rehabilitation, Digits Health is currently working to develop strategic partnerships with interested stakeholders to accelerate their go-to-market strategy.

www.digitsrehab.com

Headquarters:
London, Canada

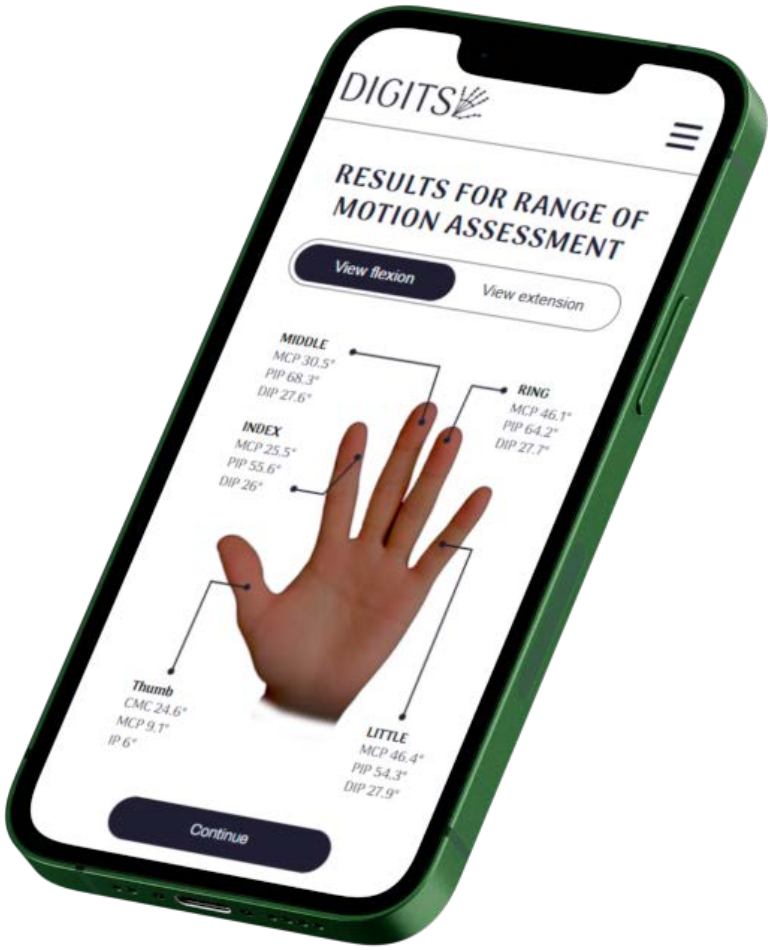
Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Medical device

"DIGITS is transforming hand care with digital tools that make rehabilitation measurable, scalable, and accessible worldwide."

- Caitlin Symonette, Founder

Caitlin Symonette,
Founder, Digits Rehab



SPOTLIGHT

DITEBA INC

From Empty Lab to Global Impact: Diteba's 20-Year Journey of Scientific Grit and Innovation

Transforming complex pharmaceutical challenges into life-changing therapies—starting with nothing but determination

Story told from the perspective of Theo Kapanadze, CSO

www.diteba.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Number of employees:
51-100

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals, Biopharmaceuticals

"At Diteba, we don't shy away from difficult projects—we embrace them. That's how we turn science into solutions."

- Theo Kapanadze, Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer

Spark
In 1995, I arrived in Canada with my wife, two young children, and a miniature poodle—no job, no contacts, and no clear path forward. Just perseverance. After working as a research scientist at Biovail, Patheon, and Taro, I co-founded Diteba in 2003 with two partners. We started in a 9,000 sq. ft. empty space in Mississauga with a bold idea: to build a world-class GLP/GMP analytical lab that could take on the kinds of pharmaceutical problems others avoided.

Approach
Our strategy was unconventional—seek out the hardest, riskiest projects. When global pharmaceutical companies hesitated to work with a new CRO, we learned in and solved the challenges no one else would touch. One of our early breakthroughs was winning a Phase III tender requiring novel protein mapping for an FDA submission—a feat rare among independent CROs at the time.

Impact
Over 20 years, Diteba has helped bring both innovative and affordable therapies to patients in North America and Europe. We were among the first labs to adopt In Vitro Release (IVRT) and Permeation Testing (IVPT) techniques, years before formal guidance from the FDA or EMA. Our work has supported the development of antisense oligonucleotides, monoclonal antibodies, topical generics, and more.

Momentum
From receiving our first Health Canada Establishment Licence in 2005 to tripling our facility footprint in 2018, Diteba has grown into a 27,000 sq. ft. global reference lab. Today, we are proud to be among the few Canadian CROs invited to present at FDA-CRCG regulatory science workshops.

Next
As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, Diteba is expanding into advanced bioanalytical services for novel therapeutics. Our mission remains the same: to accelerate access to high-quality medicines and improve health outcomes worldwide.

SPOTLIGHT

www.epic.utoronto.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, ON, Canada

Number of Employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
life sciences research;
infectious diseases

"The last five years illustrate what we can accomplish when cross-disciplinary research excellence is focused on infectious disease challenges. Uniting the ecosystem across EPIC is empowering collaboration and innovation and training the highly skilled talent we need to tackle infectious disease now and in the future. With a renewed Toronto High Containment Facility, we are positioning Ontario to be a global leader in emerging pathogen research and preparedness."

– Scott Gray-Owen, Director, EPIC and professor of molecular genetics, University of Toronto.

THE EMERGING & PANDEMIC INFECTIONS CONSORTIUM (EPIC) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

An EPIC Gateway to Health Security: accelerating innovative research and training the next generation of infectious disease leaders

Canada needs sustainable infrastructure efforts, expanded transdisciplinary engagement and highly skilled talent to confront the infectious disease challenges of today and tomorrow. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the collective power of research and innovation when efforts converge on a common target. EPIC was established to carry that momentum forward by connecting researchers and trainees across disciplines to foster new linkages, expand access to critical lab space and strengthen pandemic preparedness.

Key in this is the Toronto High Containment Facility (THCF), Ontario's largest research facility housing biosafety containment level 2 and level 3 labs. The THCF has specialized infrastructure, expert personnel and the necessary regulatory licenses to support safe and secure biomedical and translational research.

Isolating the first sample of SARS-CoV-2 in Canada in March 2020, THCF researchers kickstarted projects across Canada by sharing those early viral strains. For example, we worked with the Rogers Hixon Human Milk Bank to ensure the safety of breastmilk for infants and with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Unity Health Toronto to validate decontamination methods to allow safe reuse of PPE for front-line health care workers. Projects with industry partners, like Ontario's own Edesa Therapeutics, put new drugs in the pipeline for conditions like acute respiratory distress syndrome.

Research generated throughout EPIC has contributed to the development of 13 vaccines and 12 novel therapeutics or diagnostic approaches. Over the 20-year history of high-impact science in the THCF, over 100 personnel have developed skills equipping them to be uniquely qualified in the life sciences and biomanufacturing sectors.

Critical investments from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation ($35 million) and the Ontario Research Fund ($9.9 million) are fueling current redevelopment efforts, making the THCF into a world-leading facility with expanded capacity and cutting-edge infrastructure.

EPIC has supported over 20 partnerships across academia, hospitals, government and industry, helping made-in-Ontario discoveries and innovations achieve real-world impact through policies and products. Partnerships with global pharmaceutical leaders such as Pfizer, GSK, bioMérieux and Moderna position EPIC as a global hub for infectious disease leadership.

Harnessing 850 members across an integrative network spanning institutions and disciplines, EPIC connects biomedical researchers, health care providers, engineers, public health professionals, policy makers and industrial partners focused on new and emerging infectious disease threats. In conjunction with the THCF, this epicenter of expertise and research support provides an innovative platform for truly transdisciplinary infectious disease research. By working at the forefront, we aim to offset the impacts of future outbreaks.

EPIC trainees at the 2024 annual EPIC symposium

SPOTLIGHT

www.femtech.ca

Headquarters:
Hamilton, Ontario

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Supports the femtech industry, specifically focusing on women's health innovations

"Innovation thrives when resources are pooled. Femtech Canada is that force multiplier, uniting the brightest minds and promising technologies to make Canadian femtech a dominant force on the global stage."

- Andrea Guest, Senior Manager, Femtech Canada

FEMTECH CANADA

Building Canada's femtech future

Connecting entrepreneurs, investors, and resources to commercialize disruptive women's health technologies.

Spark

Despite its projected $27 million contribution to GDP, the Canadian femtech sector faces significant barriers, including limited investment access, regulatory challenges, market recognition gaps, absence of specialized expertise, and appropriate distribution channels. To solve this, Femtech Canada was created as a national network to advance women's health innovation, commercialization, and investment.

Globally, only 1% of healthcare research and innovation is invested in female-specific conditions, and these conditions account for a mere 4% of the worldwide pharmaceutical pipeline. This is symptomatic of the systematic gender disparity within the healthcare system and its far-reaching impact became the inspiration to start Femtech Canada.

Approach

Operated by Innovation Factory, Femtech Canada is a national network dedicated to supporting women's health innovations. By drawing on Innovation Factory's years of credibility and expertise, Femtech Canada is working to build and scale national programs. With its new wHealth Medpath commercialization program, supported in part by funding from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP), Femtech Canada provides physician feedback and funding for commercialization projects with CROs/CDMOs. Femtech Canada also enables companies to gain industry visibility through targeted networking and knowledge-sharing platforms such as the annual Femtech Canada Forum and bi-monthly roundtables.

Impact

Femtech Canada strengthens the entire ecosystem by linking entrepreneurs with the resources and connections needed to navigate their path to market. This, in turn, drives the sector's economic impact, with the ultimate beneficiaries being the users who gain access to life-changing healthcare solutions.

Momentum

Femtech Canada has grown to become the third-largest femtech network globally. To date,170+ women's health companies have commercialized 110 years of Canadian research, creating over 1,200 jobs nationwide and generating $250+ million in investment through Femtech Canada. Formed a partnership with Sun Life to establish commercialization programming and help Canadian femtech companies compete globally.

Next

Femtech Canada's next chapter focuses on bold advocacy to modernize Canada's 1999 women's health strategy, fueling global leadership and economic growth. By connecting research, innovation, and healthcare access, and delivering founder-focused, commercialization-ready programs, Femtech Canada aims to make women's health a national innovation priority.

Karen Linseman - VP of Operations at Innovation Factory, speaking at Femtech Canada Forum 2024.

Left to Right: Alex Muggah - Director of Synapse Life Science Consortium, Andrea Guest - Senior Manager at Femtech Canada, Krista Hogan - AVP, Health Benefits & Solutions at Sun Life, Rachel Bartholomew - Founder and CEO of Hyivy, Karen Linseman - VP of Operations at Innovation Factory.

Left to Right: Rachel Bartholomew - Founder and CEO of Hyivy, Latchmi Raghunanan - CEO & Founder of Maman Biomedical, Andrea Guest - Senior Manager at Femtech Canada, Angela Johnson - CEO and Co-Founder of Sano Living.

SPOTLIGHT

H.A.L.O TELE-MONITORING INC.

From One Patient's Promise to a Nationwide Movement in Patient Safety

HALO transforms constant care with an innovative virtual solution that multiplies the power of front-line healthcare teams and saves money.

www.halotelemonitoring.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Human Attended Live Observation (HALO) of Hospitalized Patients

"From that very first patient, I promised I wouldn't stop until every hospital in Canada had access to this solution. That promise drives everything we do at HALO, and we're just getting started."

- Marijana Zubrinic, COO & Chief Nursing Executive

Spark

HALO began in 2015 with a single patient at Toronto General Hospital. Nurse Practitioner Marijana Zubrinic faced an impossible situation: an at-risk patient needed continuous observation, but resources were stretched thin. Instead of accepting the status quo, she collaborated with Dr. Shaf Keshavjee and UHN's Techna engineering team to pilot a live audio-video monitoring device. That first patient, "Patient #1," believed in the idea from the beginning and inspired a promise that every Canadian hospital would one day have access to safer, scalable way to do live patient observation.

Approach

HALO's Virtual Sitter Solution combines advanced device technology, purpose-built software, and a dedicated workforce of Virtual Safety Observers who provide continuous, real-time observation of patients from its Toronto office. Each trained observer can safely oversee up to 12 patients simultaneously, enabling hospitals to maintain constant bedside monitoring with far greater efficiency and scalability. Developed by Ontario clinicians for Canada's single-payer healthcare system, HALO integrates seamlessly into existing hospital workflows and supports frontline healthcare staff that Ontarians rely on every day.

Impact

At the University Health Network (UHN), full deployment of HALO reduced spending on agency staff by 30%, saving the network approximately $3 million annually. Across other hospital partners, HALO has been used as a workforce multiplier enabling the redeployment of staff previously assigned to patient-watch duties back to the bedside where they are urgently needed. HALO's solution supports Ontario's goals of improving workforce efficiency and reducing reliance on agency staff thereby strengthening the overall resiliency of the healthcare system.

Momentum

After securing a provincial contract with Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services, HALO now supports 24 hospitals and 6 long-term care homes across Canada from its 24/7 Patient Command Centre located in Toronto's MaRS Discovery District. As Ontario advances its vision for a stronger, more connected, and resilient healthcare system, HALO is uniquely positioned to help provincial healthcare systems safely and efficiently scale the constant observation as the first and only company in Canada offering a fully managed 'Virtual Sitting' Solution.

Next

HALO's vision is bold yet simple: to make remote video observation a standard of care in Canadian hospitals. By scaling its model across provinces and integrating emerging AI innovations, HALO aims to transform how hospitals deliver safe, sustainable care—especially in rural and resource-constrained communities.

SPOTLIGHT

Health Innovation Hub

www.h2i.utoronto.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Health Innovation, Research Commercialization

"Together, the academic community can help and must help Canada to grow not only as a nation of research excellence, but as a nation of innovators for the delivery of healthcare globally."

- Dr. Paul Santerre, H2i Director

HEALTH INNOVATION HUB (H2I)

Accelerating Health Impact Though Dynamic Entrepreneurial Education

H2i and the Role for Post-Secondary Institutions in Powering Canadian Innovation

As Canada faces health and economic challenges, health commercialization training at post-secondary institutions can mobilize research and talent to tackle pressing needs.

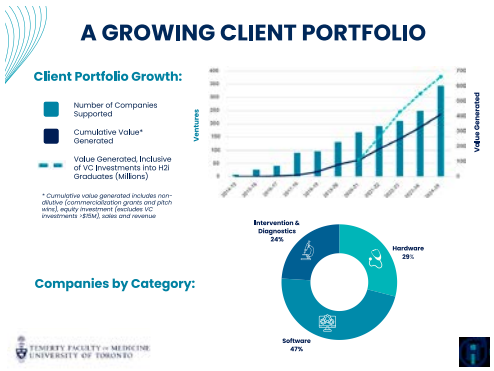
Health Innovation Hub (H2i) is one of Canada's largest and most successful early-stage health faculty commercial accelerators. Housed at the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty of Medicine, H2i showcases the crucial role that post-secondary institutions must begin to play in catalyzing impact, by dedicating resources to translate their students and faculty's burgeoning talent.

Since 2014, H2i has trained 860+ ventures of which >30% have generated a combined economic impact of CAD$660M, with a modest operational budget that, over 10 years combined, totaled CAD$3M. Unlike bootcamps, ventures at H2i's have access to education, mentorship and funding opportunities through a continuum model, receiving customized support that evolves as they do, from conception to scale.

In 2024-25, H2i trained 342 ventures who generated CAD$111M, facilitated 140+ events (4600+ participants), delivered 3000+ mentorship hours from 170+ industry experts and partnered with 150+ organizations. This year, H2i ventures saw remarkable traction. In medical devices, Cohesys' BoneTape™ saw its first-in-human use. In software, 16bit had the world's first regulatory-approved AI-based opportunistic screen for low bone density using x-ray. Therapeutics ventures closed milestone funding rounds, including Paradox Immunotherapeutics, HDAX Therapeutics, Yellowbird Diagnostics and OXCan.

H2i's growth and success are made possible by collaborative partnerships. This year, H2i continued its 10-year participation in the Africa Health Collaborative in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. H2i continued to expand its reach with partnered programming with hospitals, including SickKids and KITE-UHN. This year we saw the launch of the Lab2Market National Health Hub, hosted at H2i, which will receive CAD$4.25M over the next five years through the Government of Canada's Lab to Market grants.

As H2i continues to deliver impactful continuum support and collaborative programming, they also hope to build momentum for sustainable, long-term support from Canada's post-secondary community.



A snapshot of H2i's 2024-25 client portfolio and growth to-date.

The H2i executive team at the accelerator's 10-year anniversary in September 2024.

Finalists and judges at the 2025 FemSTEM Pitch Competition.

SPOTLIGHT

cencora
Innomar Strategies

www.innomar-strategies.com

Headquarters:
Oakville, Canada

Number of employees:
100+

Focus Area:
Specialty and patient support services; clinics, nursing, and distribution for complex therapies

"Our focus has always been on people, not just treatments. Behind every medication is a person that deserves timely care close to home. That's what drives us - making the system work better for Ontarians who rely on it most."

- Guy Payette, President

INNOMAR STRATEGIES INC.

Innomar Strategies, a part of Cencora, is Canada's leading specialty medications service provider. We help patients access the medicines they need, where and when they need them, while supporting Ontario's healthcare system with end-to-end services that span patient support programs, specialty pharmacies, infusion clinics, pharmaceutical logistics and more.

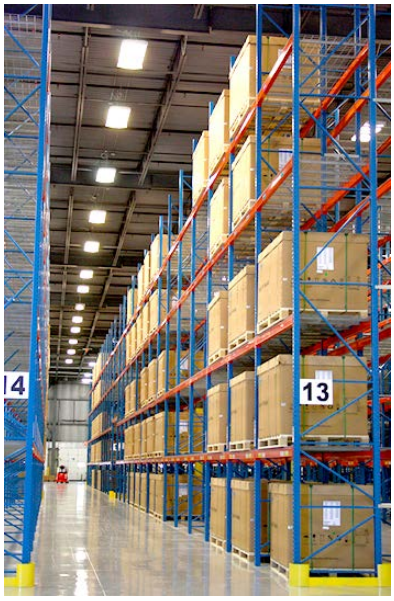
For Ontarians living with complex conditions, the path to treatment is often filled with barriers, from navigating benefit programs to coordinating care across multiple providers. These delays can leave patients and families struggling at the most critical moments of their health journey. Innomar was founded on the belief that no patient should be left behind because of system complexity, and our mission is to make access to specialty medicines easier, faster, and more equitable.

What differentiates us is our ability to align clinical care, pharmacy, distribution, and regulatory expertise so patients get timely access to the therapies they need. By bringing these pieces together, we reduce delays and inefficiencies that put pressure on Ontario's health system. This approach not only helps patients begin treatment sooner but also gives caregivers, physicians, and pharmacists a more coordinated experience that strengthens the healthcare ecosystem.

This impact is visible across the province. With more than 165 InnomarClinics™ nationwide, including 43 located in communities across Ontario — from urban centres to rural and northern regions — patients can access infusions, injections, and diagnostics closer to home. In Ontario, more than 160 Innomar nurses deliver care in community and home settings, easing pressure on hospitals and providing treatment where people live and work.

Our infrastructure has also proven its resilience—from distributing over 78 million COVID-19 vaccines nationwide to investing in two world-class Ontario facilities. Our 160,000-square-foot distribution centre in Milton and our 92,000-square-foot GMP-compliant 3PL logistics centre in Halton Hills together expand the province's capacity for secure, temperature-controlled storage and handling of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and other healthcare products.

As Ontario expands care for patients with complex conditions, including therapies that depend on secure cold chain handling, Innomar stands ready to partner with government, providers, and manufacturers to improve timely access to treatments and support the long-term sustainability of Ontario's healthcare system.



SPOTLIGHT

www.innovationfactory.ca

Headquarters:
Hamilton, Ontario

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Not-for-profit business accelerator for technology, innovation, and life sciences sectors

"Our mission is to build an ecosystem where every breakthrough has a direct line to market and real-world impact."

- David Carter, CEO of Innovation Factory

INNOVATION FACTORY

Commercializing life science breakthroughs at scale

Bridging the gap between academic discovery and market deployment in Ontario

Spark

Ontario's life sciences companies export over $12 billion annually, yet innovation faces persistent hurdles. To solve this, Innovation Factory is helping companies access crucial project funding, research infrastructure, clinical expertise, and partnerships to help them succeed.

There was a clear need to help promising health innovations overcome a critical set of commercialization hurdles. This led to the creation of a suite of programs that provide the strategic support and connections needed to navigate complex regulatory and financial challenges along their commercialization pathway.

Approach

Innovation Factory has partnered with FedDev Ontario and NRC IRAP to deploy specialized programs to support life science commercialization:

HEALTHI (Health Ecosystem to Accelerate and Leverage Trials of Healthcare Innovation): enables knowledge transfer with leading hospital research administration groups.

SOPHIE (Southern Ontario Pharmaceutical and Health Innovation Ecosystem): provides non-dilutive funding for collaborative projects with leading academic and clinical institutions to advance research and clinical trials.

CAMEDA (Canadian Medtech Alliance): provides medical device companies with non-dilutive funding for collaborative projects with Ontario's leading contract design and manufacturing service providers.

Impact

Since their inception, these programs have supported over 160 companies across Ontario. They have gone on to create high-skilled jobs in the sector, driving significant economic impact, as well as improving patient outcomes. Innovation Factory's sustained partnerships have strengthened the commercialization capabilities of Ontario research institutions, cultivating a more resilient health technology ecosystem.

Momentum

Together, SOPHIE, HEALTHI, and CAMEDA activated $4.3 million in collaborative initiatives in 2024. In the same year, SOPHIE and CAMEDA programs received a $5.2 million renewal from FedDev Ontario, while HEALTHI's fourth cohort was supported in part by funding of up to $650,000 from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP). Additionally, in 2024, HEALTHI partnered with the CAN Health Network to support efforts to scale the adoption of Canadian health tech nationally.

Next

By prioritizing tangible outcomes—increased investment, seamless market entry, and global scale—Innovation Factory will continue to drive the commercialization of life science innovations across Ontario.

SPOTLIGHT

www.inovait.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Image-guided Therapy and Artificial Intelligence

"Canadian IGT researchers and companies are merging to become global leaders. INOVAIT supports connections and fosters growth within this burgeoning sector."

- Raphael Ronen & Kullervo Hynynen, INOVAIT Co-Executive Directors.

Abubaker Khalifa, Co-founder of Moonrise Medical showcases their prototype device at the INOVAIT Booth at the 2024 MedTech Conference in Toronto. (Source: AdvaMed)

The INOVAIT Team

INOVAIT

Turbocharging medtech innovation for Canadians

Canada's network supporting the commercialization of image-guided therapy and artificial intelligence innovations

Spark

Medical imaging makes up 90% of all health data. This critical data is key to guiding therapy and treatment decisions for nearly everyone who seeks medical care. Inspired by the transformative potential of image-guided therapy (IGT) and artificial intelligence (AI), we aim to revolutionize healthcare in Canada. While our country stands at the forefront of AI-driven IGT, we face significant challenges that hinder our ability to leverage this advantage. These include limited access to financing for Canadian companies, a lack of cohesion in the sector, eager talent that seek upskilling, and restricted access to health data. By addressing these commercialization barriers, we can harness our potential and ensure a healthier future for all Canadians.

Approach

Established in 2020 with generous support from the Government of Canada's Strategic Response Fund, INOVAIT is Canada's IGT and AI membership network. Our mission is to connect, educate, and invest in the industry's brightest minds and most promising ventures in order to improve patient outcomes and fuel economic development in Canada. Over the past five years, we've made great progress through our proven programming to catalyze commercialization, training and skills development, health data access, and the building of a pan-Canadian community.

We offer two non-dilutive funding programs to help capitalize on great ideas and commercialize the best ones quickly. Through our funding programs, we initiate pan-Canadian, collaborative R&D projects between industry and academia. Through our networking program, we have hosted more than 100 events and supported countless others to spark opportunities for our members to connect and collaborate. Our training program, Medventions, take fellows on a four-month commercialization journey from needs finding and ideation to prototyping and pitching. Our data program published Health Data Licensing Principles to assist health institutions on how they can safely and ethically unlock health data for innovation.

Impact

INOVAIT's initiatives have had a profound impact on the Canadian medtech and digital health sectors by fostering connections nationwide, providing essential non-dilutive financial support, and cultivating talent necessary for these industries to grow. Through our efforts, Canadians benefit indirectly as we drive meaningful economic development that leads to job creation, the generation of intellectual property, the filing of patents, and the introduction of groundbreaking medical devices.

Momentum

Key wins for INOVAIT include:

- Initiating over 100 Canadian companies and academic collaborators to work on innovative IGT-AI R&D projects
- Supporting our companies to raise over $159M
- Creating and maintaining 743 jobs across Canada
- Launching 342 co-op positions for new trainees to garner commercialization experience
- Bringing 34 new medical products to market

Next

In the future, we'd like to expand our mandate to include all health data, leveraging artificial intelligence and building off of our proven programs to support even more companies to deliver even greater results for Canadians.

SPOTLIGHT

www.iqvia.com

Headquarters:
Kirkland, Canada

Number of employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
Clinical research services, commercial insights, healthcare intelligence

"In today's shifting landscape of global tariffs, it is critical to recognize the value that MedTech companies bring to healthcare innovation and patient outcomes globally and in Canada. IQVIA Canada is proud to support the Canadian MedTech industry by providing clear strategies, insights, intelligence and tools to limit tariff impact, accelerate go-to-market strategies and help organizations thrive with greater patient access."

- Dheeman Vaidya, Director, Business Development, IQVIA MedTech

IQVIA CANADA

IQVIA helps clients mitigate risk and disruption in the MedTech sector

A leading global provider of healthcare intelligence, IQVIA helps accelerate the development of innovative treatments that improve patient outcomes and health worldwide

The medical device market is going through unprecedented transformation. Growth from new products, new indications, new geographic markets and entirely new product categories are emerging at a time of significant regulatory and policy changes.

A critical challenge for the MedTech industry in Canada is the effect global tariffs will have on medical device companies, which could ultimately lead to a negative impact on patient access to innovative technologies and delivery of patient care.

IQVIA's MedTech experience, in combination with our leading capabilities in pharmaceutical, biotech, and consumer health is helping life science companies mitigate risk and disruption in uncertain times.

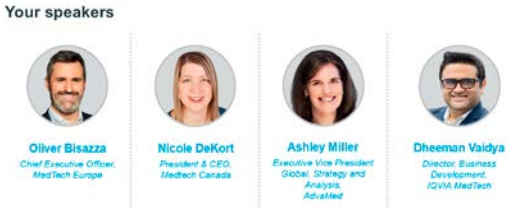
Recently, IQVIA developed two pieces of thought leadership on this important topic:

A **white paper** outlining recommendations for MedTech companies to better adapt to dynamic market conditions. The paper highlighted strategies and tools needed to build a robust organization capable of withstanding global disruptions, covering topics including Identifying Emerging Risks, Regulatory Compliance and Adaptation, Supply Chain Resilience Strategies, Future-Proofing Your Business. Access the full whitepaper here: http://bit.ly/4naihZk

A webinar hosted in partnership with three major MedTech industry associations that discussed the impact of tariffs on the industry. Leaders from AdvaMed, MedTech Europe, Medtech Canada and IQVIA Canada discussed the challenges of the current environment and strategies for mitigating risks. View the recorded webinar here: https://bit.ly/4p4tKLO

In 2025, MedTech companies project that tariffs will have an approximate $4 billion impact on the industry. Although many companies are taking actions to mitigate this impact, there has been an important industry-wide call for "zero-for-zero" tariff agreements in MedTech.

IQVIA Canada is pleased to play a part in shaping this important conversation and help MedTech companies drive greater adoption of their technologies and deliver better patient outcomes through a range of solutions from market insights, evidence generation, technology and tools.



SPOTLIGHT

KARE CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGIES INC.

From orange peels to medicine

Catalyzing non-psychoactive cannabinoid therapeutics.

www.karechem.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Biotech/Pharmaceutical

"What started as a mission to help a family member has grown into a platform to transform global healthcare and therapeutics."

- Kareem Abdur-Rashid, Co-Founder & COO

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

Spark

Access to cannabinoid-based medicines has been limited by plant extraction bottlenecks. When a family member was diagnosed with epilepsy, we saw firsthand the urgent need for scalable, pharmaceutical-grade solutions for conditions like epilepsy, without the barriers of cost, or inconsistent supply! This has now expanded to chronic pain, and obesity.

Approach

Kare developed a patented catalytic platform that transforms a citrus by-product (limonene) into pharmaceutical-grade cannabinoids and novel analogues. Unlike agriculture, this method is clean, consistent, and scalable, delivering reliable APIs for drug development. The current goal of the platform is to create non-psychoactive therapeutics and a pipeline of assets aimed at high-need indications such as chronic pain and obesity.

Impact

By eliminating reliance on plant extraction, Kare supports patients, researchers, and pharmaceutical companies seeking sustainable, cost-effective access to next-generation therapeutics. The technology has potential to address the opioid crisis, expand treatment options for epilepsy and obesity, and catalyze new research worldwide.

Momentum

Several million in revenue with partners and clients including Eurofins, Neuropathix, and Purisys (J&J).

Technology supporting Phase 3 clinical trials for indications involving cancer.

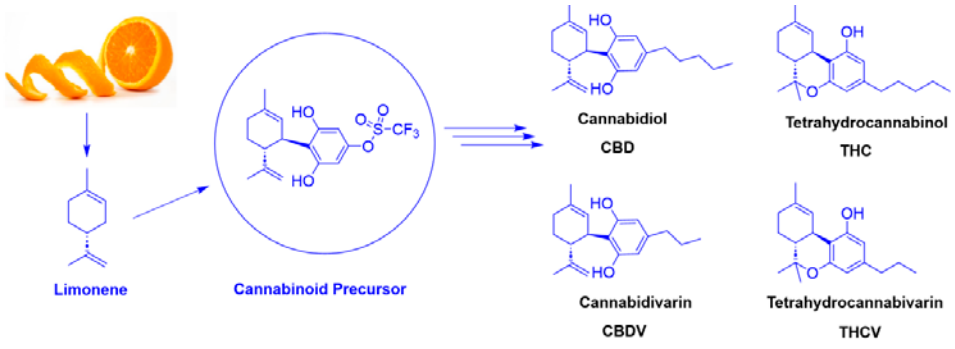
45 patents across 17 countries protecting methods, compositions, and applications.

Finalist for the Baylis – Ontario Life Sciences Innovator of the Year Award (2025).

CityNews Feature

Next

Kare aims to advance preclinical assets in chronic pain and obesity, expand global partnerships, and position its platform as a foundation for the next wave of non-psychoactive, sustainable therapeutics.



SPOTLIGHT

KINGSTON
Economic Development
www.investkingston.ca

Headquarters:
Kingston, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Investment Attraction;
Business Retention;
Startups & Entrepreneurship;
Life Sciences & Health Innovation;
Sustainable Manufacturing

"We are delighted by the strong response from small- and medium-sized enterprises across Kingston and the region, with the program's first intake being oversubscribed. This enthusiastic participation validates that we are addressing a real need in our community. I am excited to see the transformative impact this funding will have on our economy, the participating companies, and the broader life sciences ecosystem."

- Ben McIlquham, Investment Manager, Life Sciences & Health Innovation at Kingston Economic Development Corporation.

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

KINGSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Helix Funding Powering Kingston's Life Sciences Future

Kingston and area life sciences companies can access up to $100,000 to support growth and accelerate market readiness

Kingston Economic Development's life sciences initiative provides a comprehensive support system for Eastern Ontario companies, focusing on four key pillars: access to BSL-2 wet lab infrastructure, tailored business supports, commercialization funding, and an extensive validation network. Through this initiative, companies can utilize state-of-the-art wet lab space at Providence Care Hospital, connect with expert mentors and technical advisors, and participate in the Build2Scale Life Sciences program, delivered through Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre.

At the core of the life science initiative is the Helix Funding program, which offers eligible companies non-repayable funding ranging from $10,000 to $100,000 to support their growth and market readiness. These funds enable ventures to access specialized facilities, expertise, and collaborative opportunities that are essential to validating and scaling innovative products in the life sciences sector. Designed to bridge the gap between innovation and commercialization, the program helps businesses in Southeastern Ontario advance critical milestones: prototype development, regulatory consulting, IP strategy, and go-to-market activities.

Helix Funding is delivered by Kingston Economic Development Corporation and supported by the Government of Canada, through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

Helix Funding

SPOTLIGHT

Lambton College

www.lambtoncollege.ca

Headquarters:
Sarnia, Canada

Research Staff & Faculty:
201

Focus Area:
Drugs & Pharmaceuticals;
Medical Cannabis;
E-Health &AI;
Medical Devices & Equipment;
Agricultural Feedstock & Chemicals

"We see life sciences as a critical and emerging area. Our focus is on continuing to expand our capacity to support industry and help position Canada as a leader in health, innovation, and sustainability."

-Dr. Mehdi Sheikhzadeh, Senior Vice President, Research & Innovation, Lambton College

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

LAMBTON COLLEGE'S RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Supporting Canada's Life Science Sector Through Applied Research

Lambton College's Research & Innovation builds capacity, partnerships, and talent to accelerate life sciences innovation.

Spark

Canada's life sciences sector faces mounting pressure to deliver innovative health and sustainability solutions in areas ranging from new therapeutics and medical devices to digital health platforms and greener industrial processes. Recognizing this challenge, Lambton College has built world-class capacity to support companies developing the next generation of life sciences products, processes, and technologies.

Approach

Ranked among Canada's top five research colleges, Lambton College's Research & Innovation department provides companies with access to advanced labs, expert staff, and sector-specific knowledge. Through research centres like the Bio-Industrial Process Research Centre, Digital Transformation Lab, and Lambton Advanced Manufacturing Centre, the College supports applied research in:

- Drugs & Pharmaceuticals – therapeutic formulations, active compound analysis, and production optimization.
- Medical Cannabis – evidence-based therapeutic development.
- E-Health & AI – intelligent digital health platforms that transform patient care.
- Medical Devices & Equipment – testing, prototyping, and optimization for commercialization.
- Agricultural Feedstock & Chemicals – advancing sustainable, bio-based alternatives.

What sets Lambton apart is its integrated approach. By combining technical expertise, real-world collaboration, and student engagement, the College is ensuring projects address industry needs while training Ontario's next generation of talent.

Impact

These collaborations have delivered tangible results. For example:

- Gokaddal Technologies worked with Lambton to develop an AI-powered mobile app for personal robotic assistants, enabling predictive care, two-way communication, and remote monitoring for vulnerable populations.
- Jing Jing Nutrifood partnered with Lambton to create ginseng-based yogurt and kombucha products, advancing natural health foods, supporting local agriculture, and creating new jobs in Ontario.

Each partnership moves companies closer to commercialization while preparing students with hands-on, industry-driven experience.

Momentum

With growing global demand for health-driven and sustainable solutions, Lambton is expanding capacity in life sciences research. Numerous companies have already partnered with the College to scale innovations and strengthen supply chains.

Next

By connecting expertise, infrastructure, and talent, Lambton College is helping partners advance solutions that create a stronger, healthier future for Canadians.

SPOTLIGHT

www.letstalkscience.ca

Headquarters: London, Canada

Number of Employees: 101-500

Focus Areas: Education

"Life sciences contribute significantly to economic development in Canada. It will also underpin solutions to many of the most pressing global challenges. Let's Talk Science helps support early talent development by supporting youth skills development, catalyzing interest in life sciences and raising awareness of the diversity of work that will be available in the coming decade."

- Bonnie Schmidt, President of Let's Talk Science and 2016 LSO Award Recipient

LET'S TALK SCIENCE

The Future of Ontario Life Sciences is in School Now

Let's Talk Science is building a robust talent pipeline by tackling the STEM skills gap, raising career awareness, and inspiring the next generation of scientists and innovators.

More than half of students graduate high school without the science credits needed for postsecondary STEM studies. Let's Talk Science is working to change this by equipping youth with the tools they need for a successful future. Preparing the next generation of life sciences leaders starts early, so our free programming for Early Years through Grade 12 fosters curiosity and engages youth in career exploration.

Over half of Let's Talk Science programming, available in English and French, focuses on biology, health, and life sciences. Our approach includes online programs and resources and in-person learning experiences delivered by our robust network of volunteers. Over 20 Ontario post-secondary sites offer Let's Talk Science Outreach, bringing hands-on activities directly into schools and communities, introducing students to career pathways. We also equip educators with resources and professional learning to build confidence and catalyze student engagement in STEM. Last year, over 40% of schools across 490 communities in Ontario accessed Let's Talk Science programming.

In addition to engaging youth in life sciences through our innovative programming, our volunteers, who are students, researchers, and leaders themselves, also gain valuable career and leadership skills such as teamwork, communication and innovation. Many alumni have gone on to thrive in life sciences, with careers in industry and research.

Leading employers such as Amgen, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and MilliporeSigma support our mission and rely on Ontario talent. Amgen, a long-standing partner, enable staff to volunteer as role models, directly connecting the Life Sciences sector with youth. Our programming is informed by partnerships with organizations like the Stem Cell Network, Genome Canada, and BioCanRx, further mobilizing Ontario's science innovation community.

Let's Talk Science is developing youth who are creative, critical thinkers and knowledgeable citizens prepared to participate and thrive in a complex environment. We are empowering youth to face new challenges and become innovative leaders who drive provincial, national, and global progress.

SPOTLIGHT

www.lgcstandards.com

Headquarters:
Vaughan, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Life sciences, analytical standards and research chemicals manufacturer

"TRC's new Centre of Excellence is a testament to our commitment to scientific innovation and global impact. By investing in advanced capabilities and sustainable infrastructure, we are empowering researchers and industries worldwide to solve critical challenges in health, safety, and the environment."

- Joydeep, President & CEO, LGC Group

"TRC has long been trusted by scientists worldwide for quality and innovation. With this new facility, we are building on that legacy and creating an environment where science can move faster and further."

- Bruno Rossi, EVP & GM, LGC Standards

LGC – TORONTO RESEARCH CHEMICALS (TRC)

Innovation at scale. Impact without limits.

Celebrating the opening of LGC's new state-of-the-art facility – delivering the scale, speed, and expertise to accelerate discovery, strengthen supply chains, and enable science that safeguards public health, food, water, and the environment.

Spark
Since our foundation in Toronto in 1982, Toronto Research Chemicals (TRC) has built deep expertise in manufacturing high-quality research chemicals and analytical standards. Today, our catalogue spans more than 100,000 compounds, alongside custom synthesis capabilities that support critical research and testing worldwide. TRC's products are widely used by scientists, regulators, and industry, reflected in more than 45,000 research citations to date. They underpin advances in pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, food safety, and environmental science, helping to address challenges that matter to both Canada and the global community.

Approach
LGC's new Organic Chemistry Synthesis Centre of Excellence in Vaughan, Ontario, is more than a building; it's a strategic investment in Canada's role within the global life sciences ecosystem. From here, TRC will provide over 100,000 complex organic molecules to researchers, scientists, manufacturers, and public health agencies in more than 170 countries. These essential building blocks underpin breakthroughs that enable earlier disease detection, the development of safer and more effective medicines, and innovations that safeguard our environment. This CAD $100M investment expands Canadian manufacturing capacity and strengthens Canada's position as a leader in scientific innovation.

Impact
Our team supports scientists, manufacturers, and public health agencies worldwide, helping to enhance the safety of public health, food, water, and medicines, and to build safer, healthier communities and environments. TRC products have helped enable a toxicology test that detects 100 drugs at once, helping doctors treat overdoses faster; a new diagnostic model that predicts septic shock earlier, saving lives in intensive care; and research on smoke taint in wine, helping winemakers manage climate-related risks

Momentum
LGC's CAD $100M investment in Vaughan represents one of its largest single-site investments worldwide. At 203,000 sq. ft., the facility is one of the largest organic chemistry synthesis centres of its kind in the world, housing one of North America's largest collections of fume hoods under a single roof. The facility employs more than 350 people, including over 100 PhDs, across chemistry, R&D, manufacturing, and operations. Building on more than 40 years of Canadian heritage, the Centre reinforces TRC's reputation as a global leader in complex organic chemistry and provides a platform for continued growth, innovation, and scientific impact.

Next
The new facility incorporates advanced energy-efficient technologies, from low-flow fume hoods to smart freezers and heat-recovery systems. It marks a major step in LGC's commitment to cut direct emissions by 48 per cent by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. Sustainability was designed into every detail, reinforcing that innovation here in Vaughan is both scientific and environmental.

LGC. Science for a Safer World

SPOTLIGHT

MAMAN BIOMEDICAL

No More Needles: Ontario startup redefining fertility treatment with the world's first needle-free hormonal patch

www.mamanbiomedical.ca

Headquarters: Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees: 0-50

Focus Areas: FemTech / Life Sciences / Medical Devices / Healthcare

"I've heard from many individuals who just couldn't do IVF because of the needles. Imagine having to make that kind of decision."

- Latchmi Raghunanan, CEO & Founder

One in six individuals worldwide experience infertility. What many don't realize is just how burdensome and invasive the current standard of care, in vitro fertilization (IVF), truly is. A typical cycle can require 20–50 self-administered injections in just two weeks, each flooding the body with high hormone doses that disrupt weight, mood, and overall wellbeing.

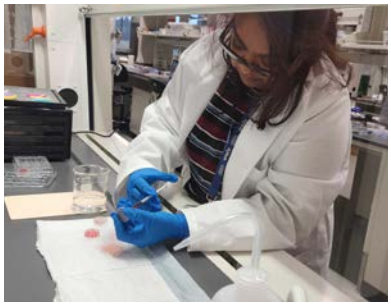
In a world driven by convenience and comfort, why hasn't this been solved yet?! Que Maman Biomedical, leveraging over 13 years of expertise in soft materials chemistry, 20+ years of governance and executive leadership, and their own lived experience with IVF between the husband-wife founding team.

We are developing the world's first needle-free hormonal patch for fertility treatment. Built on proprietary microneedle and encapsulation technologies, our platform delivers large-molecule fertility drugs directly through the skin, and releases them slowly and predictably. This eliminates the trauma of needles, reduces the hormonal burden, and integrates seamlessly into patients' daily lives.

For patients, this means a process that feels humane and manageable. For clinics, better adherence and outcomes. For healthcare systems, less waste. And because we come from a sustainable science background, we're incorporating green chemistries and materials wherever possible, opening new doors for collaboration across Ontario's innovation ecosystem.

In under two years, Maman Biomedical has moved from concept to IP, prototypes, and early partnerships. We've mobilized $400,000+ in funding, become a finalist in more than 15 pitch competitions, and expanded across Ontario's innovation ecosystem. With fabrication space in Toronto now driving our R&D, we're laying the groundwork for clinical readiness and scaling. In under two years, Maman Biomedical has moved from concept to IP, prototypes, and early partnerships. We've mobilized $400,000+ in funding, become a finalist in more than 15 pitch competitions, and expanded across Ontario's innovation ecosystem. With fabrication space in Toronto now driving our R&D, we're laying the groundwork for clinical readiness and scaling, with support as new Mayo Clinic Fellows via the Mayo Clinic Berg Innovation Exchange program.

The road ahead is ambitious but clear. Our first product, Maman Port, is on track for its first clinical study in 2026. From there, our flagship Maman Patch will follow, bringing sustained-release hormone therapy to patients and reimagining fertility care globally. To get there, we're raising a tranched $3M pre-seed to accelerate development and commercialization. Tranche 1 ($500k) is now open.



SPOTLIGHT

MERCK CANADA INC.

www.merck.ca

Headquarters:
Montreal, Canada
Year founded:
1891

Number of employees:
800+

Focus Area:
Pharmaceuticals

At Merck, known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, we are unified around our purpose: we use the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. For more than 130 years, Merck has brought hope to humanity through the development of important medicines and vaccines. We aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world — and today, we are at the forefront of research to deliver innovative health solutions that advance the prevention and treatment of diseases in people and animals.

Approach
Merck Canada's Human Health Division partners with stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem to ensure access to vital medicines and vaccines for Canadians. Merck's patient-centric approach, alongside a diverse and collaborative workforce, underscores its dedication to solving health challenges and paving the way for improved health outcomes.

Oncology: Merck advances innovative research by pursuing clinical excellence and collaborations with the larger healthcare ecosystem to improve access to care.

Vaccines: For over 130 years, Merck has been dedicated to pioneering vaccine development, driven by science and human need. Our ongoing commitment involves continuous investment in cutting-edge research with the goal of advancing global public health.

Infectious Diseases: From pioneering antibiotics to groundbreaking work in HIV science, our focus on prevention and treatment has profound implications for public health globally**.**

Cardiometabolic: Merck introduced cardiovascular therapy over 60 years ago and continues to tackle cardiometabolic disorders for Canadians living with these conditions.

Merck Canada's Animal Health Division develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of veterinary medicines and services, spanning products for the prevention, treatment and control of disease in all major farm and companion animal species.

Barriers to Success
Access to innovative treatments in Canada, particularly in Ontario, remains slow. Canada ranks last in the G7 when it comes to the time it takes for public patients to access new medicines. Ontario patients wait an average of almost two years after Health Canada's regulatory approval to gain public access to innovative medicines. Merck is encouraged by Premier Doug Ford's leadership in working with stakeholders to address these delays and speed up approvals of life-saving medications and treatments.

In addition to access to innovative medicines in Canada, achieving high coverage rates for publicly funded vaccinations remains a barrier. Even with catch-up efforts taking place in Ontario schools, immunization rates for certain vaccines have not recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and vaccine rates for Ontario adults have not reached target levels. The ongoing measles outbreak highlights the observed decline in vaccination coverage across Ontario. Stronger advocacy efforts, communication campaigns and a vaccine registry to track immunization efforts can drastically improve coverage rates for publicly funded vaccination programs.

Momentum
In Canada alone, Merck invested over $110M in research and development in 2023, with over 75 clinical trials across oncology to help address the diverse and emerging needs of Canadians.

Based on data from 2015 to 2017, the predicted five-year net survival for all cancers combined was estimated at 64%, and we're committed to doing better. Our oncology portfolio is based on one of the largest development programs within the industry, in which we continue to investigate multiple molecules in both clinical and preclinical settings.

In June 2025, we launched the Merck Digital Sciences Studio (MDSS) in Montréal, which aims to accelerate Canadian biopharma startups developing digital health technologies by providing funding, mentorship, and industry access. This collaboration is vital for advancing innovative drug development and strengthening Canada's life sciences ecosystem.

Merck is also a founding supporter of SpinUp, the University of Toronto's first wet-lab incubator to help early-stage life science companies and entrepreneurs tap into resources and mentorship as they test and develop the next generation of innovative treatments.

Looking Ahead
As we look to the future, we continue to deepen our understanding across diverse therapeutic spaces and patient populations to tackle the greatest health challenges facing Canadians today, and tomorrow.

SPOTLIGHT

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Canada

www.mt-pharma-ca.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Healthcare

"Commitment to patients is at the core of everything we do. By harnessing the power of AI, we're helping HCPs identify ALS earlier, enabling faster access to approved treatments, clinical trials, and the multidisciplinary care that can potentially extend and improve patients' lives."

- Dung Pham, Medical Affairs Director (Canada) at MTP-CA

MITSUBISHI TANABE PHARMA CANADA, INC. (MTP-CA)

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Canada Harnesses AI to Drive Earlier Diagnosis and Access in Rare Disease

Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Canada, Inc. (MTP-CA), based in Toronto, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America, Inc. (MTPA), which touts a storied reputation: more than 300 years in the making. Our parent company, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation (MTPC) - one of Japan's most respected - is a research-driven pharmaceutical company that has tirelessly pursued medical breakthroughs with global reach. MTPC has discovered and produced several first-in-class medicines for complex diseases, including multiple sclerosis (MS), diabetes mellitus (DM), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

MTP-CA's commitment to patients and their communities continues with a robust late-stage pipeline of investigational treatments for difficult-to-treat diseases and commercializing products with significant unmet medical needs in Canadian markets. The company handles sales, marketing, market access, scientific affairs, and business development functions. MTP-CA is dedicated to improving the treatment environment for those with debilitating diseases, researching on real-world evidence, and creating hope for all facing illness and constantly seeking motivated professionals who share our vision of scientific excellence, innovation, and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of patients.

Since our founding in 2018, MTP-CA has achieved major regulatory milestones, including Health Canada's approval of the first new ALS treatment in nearly 20 years and the launch of an oral suspension version in 2022. We've earned a reputation as a trusted partner among healthcare professionals and patient organizations, advancing both science and patient advocacy.

MTP-CA goes beyond commercializing therapies - we help build ecosystems of care. ALS is a complex and heterogeneous condition that often faces delayed diagnosis, limiting patient access to timely treatment, clinical trials, and multidisciplinary care. Geographic disparities in access to specialists and diagnostics further compound these challenges.

In 2023, MTP-CA supported the launch of the *Process for Progress in ALS: An EMR-based practice enhancement initiative*, an important new artificial intelligence (AI) program designed to analyze de-identified electronic medical records (EMRs) and identify individuals for which follow-up investigations for ALS or referral to a specialty centre may be clinically appropriate. The cutting-edge technology*, developed by Ensho Health in collaboration with EOCI and a steering committee of Canadian neurologists with an expertise in ALS, aims to improve early detection of ALS and support healthcare professionals (HCPs) in making timely decisions.[1]

In 2024, MTP-CA partnered with Khure Health to create an AI algorithm[2] deployed in primary care settings to hasten diagnosis. Through an advanced clinical dashboard, this tool utilizes advanced logic based on clinical guidelines and peer-reviewed research, in combination with natural language processing and data science to help general practitioners recognize ALS symptoms, identify high-risk patients in the practice EMR, and accelerate care optimization - reducing diagnostic delays and easing physician burden.

Looking ahead, MTP-CA remains focused on reducing the delay in diagnosis, equitable access to care, and continued innovation.

References:

1 Process for Progress in ALS: An EMR-based practice enhancement initiative. Available at: https://www.alsprogress.ca/. Accessed on September 9, 2024.

2 Khure Health launches AI-enabled Clinical Intelligence Platform for >50 Rare Diseases and New Clinical Trial Patient Recruitment Accelerator. Available at https://www.khurehealth.ca/. Accessed on September 2, 2025.

* The MNd-5 algorithm is a process for converting input parameters to a likelihood estimate. It is deployed at the Toronto, Canada data lab of Ensho Health through the MNd-5 CDL Module ("CDL Module"). The CDL Module is comprised of the MNd-5 Likelihood Estimator ("Likelihood Estimator") which encodes it in software and a graphical user interface called the MNd-5 Controller ("Controller"). The CDL Module was developed to the ISO 13485:2016 standard for medical devices in compliance with Ensho's Quality Management System. The MNd-5 CDL Module is registered as medical device software in Canada under the Medical Device Establishment License of Ensho Health (license 16208). The software that encodes the MNd-5 algorithm and applies it to EHR data is Class I medical device software in Canada developed and deployed under the Medical Device Establishment License of Ensho Health.

SPOTLIGHT

moderna

www.modernatx.com

Headquarters:
Canadian HQ: Toronto,
Global HQ: Boston, MA

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Biopharmaceuticals

Ontario Partner:
Novocol Pharma, Cambridge, ON

Milestone:
First made-in-Canada COVID-19 or mRNA vaccines

Ontario Impact:
- New sterile fill-finish line completed in 2024
- Supported by the Ontario Together Fund
- High-skilled jobs created in Cambridge
- Strengthens Ontario's pandemic readiness infrastructure

Why It Matters:
Ontario's leadership in biomanufacturing provides a model for turning global health threats into national strengths, delivering secure access to critical vaccines and building capacity for future innovation in mRNA science.

"By joining forces with Novocol Pharma and the Ontario government, we're helping position the province, and Canada, as a global leader in mRNA innovation and pandemic preparedness."

- Stefan Raos, General Manager of Moderna Canada

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

MODERNA BIOPHARMA CANADA

Ontario's Dose of Resilience

How Moderna and Novocol Pharma helped bring vaccine manufacturing home—and positioned Ontario as a national biomanufacturing leader

Canada's pandemic response revealed an urgent need: build domestic biomanufacturing capacity to safeguard public health. What followed was a historic collaboration between global and local partners—with Ontario at the centre.

This fall, for the first time, Canadians will receive COVID-19 vaccines produced entirely within Canada. While the drug substance is manufactured at Moderna's new facility in Laval, Québec, the final step—sterile fill-finish—is happening right here in Ontario, at Novocol Pharma in Cambridge.

Moderna's presence in Ontario has been steadily growing since the company opened its Canadian headquarters in Toronto in 2020, a foundational move that signaled a long-term commitment to the country's life sciences sector. Following a national exploration to identify the right domestic partner for this critical manufacturing stage, Moderna selected Ontario-based Novocol for its technical excellence, rapid scalability, and alignment with public health priorities. Novocol had recently completed a sterile injectable plant expansion in partnership with the federal government. With support from the Ontario Together Fund, Moderna built a new finish line at Novocol, creating high-skilled jobs and strengthening Ontario's role as a biomanufacturing hub.

In August 2025, Health Canada authorized Moderna's updated vaccine and confirmed that all pre-filled syringe doses for Canadians would be manufactured domestically. This milestone marks a significant shift in Canada's pandemic preparedness and the province's contribution to national health resilience.

What makes this achievement remarkable is not just the speed, it's the partnership. In just over two years, Moderna and Novocol Pharma, together with the federal and provincial governments, created a sustainable model for end-to-end vaccine manufacturing.

"This milestone marks more than just a manufacturing success, it's a testament to the power of partnership in building resilient health systems," said Stefan Raos, General Manager of Moderna Canada, based in Toronto. "By joining forces with Novocol Pharma and the Ontario government, we're helping position the province, and Canada, as a global leader in mRNA innovation and pandemic preparedness."

This is only the beginning. With certified infrastructure and trusted partnerships in place, Ontario is now primed to lead in mRNA science, respond rapidly to future health threats, and drive economic growth through innovation.

SPOTLIGHT

National Research Council Canada / Conseil national de recherches Canada

www.nrc.canada.ca

Headquarters:
Ottawa, Canada

Number of employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
Research

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

Advancing health solutions and building a stronger bioeconomy

The Life Sciences division of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is dedicated to cultivating a cutting-edge life sciences sector in Canada.

We bring innovators together to navigate the product development pathway, advance novel health solutions to diagnose, treat and prevent illness, and increase the productivity and resilience of Canada's biomarine and agricultural sectors.

We offer support for innovation across the life sciences value chain—from design and prototype iteration to scale-up manufacturing. Our vision is to improve Canada's productivity in the life sciences sector and bring technology-driven benefits to society.

We foster national and international collaboration, working with academia, government, industry start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises and multinational companies.

Our Human Health Therapeutics Research Centre accelerates the development of innovative biologics, from discovery to clinical trial material production. For example, through the Cell & Gene Therapy Challenge program, we are helping design and develop a robust pipeline of novel made-in-Canada CAR T-cell therapies to treat blood and solid tumor cancers.

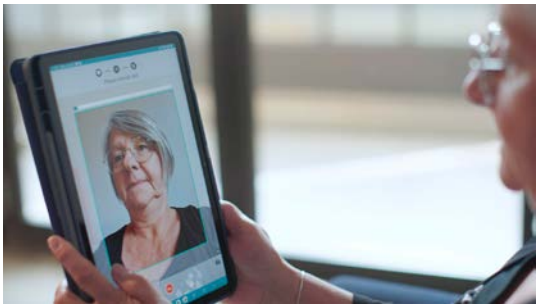
Our Medical Devices Research Centre develops point-of-care diagnostics, digital health and molecular technologies and accelerates their translation into accessible, user-centric and competitive distributed care solutions. One example is VitalSeer (see video), technology designed for delivering rapid and remote vital sign insights to improve healthcare access.

Our Aquatic and Crop Resource Development Research Centre develops innovative technologies to help industry add value to marine and agricultural bioresources, increase food security and adapt to changing environments. Our researchers are working to unlock the potential of resources, such as seaweed and wild blueberries to support sustainable industries and economic opportunities.

Through our Aging in Place Challenge program, we engage experts by experience, research partners, industry, local government and health and social healthcare professionals, to collaborate, co-create and implement Age Tech innovations and solutions for aging in place.

With our client and impact-focused approach, strategic research capacity, cutting-edge infrastructure and a multidisciplinary team of experts, the NRC's Life Sciences division is uniquely positioned to help advance biomedical technology, food productivity, business innovation and defense industrialization in Canada.

Contact us and visit our website to learn more on how we are accelerating life sciences innovation in Canada.



Human Health Therapeutics:
(EN) canada.ca/nrc-human-health-therapeutics / (FR) canada.ca/therapeutique-sante-humaine-cnrc

Medical Devices:
(EN) canada.ca/nrc-medical-devices / (FR) canada.ca/dispositifs-medicaux-cnrc

Aquatic and Crop Resource Development:
(EN) canada.ca/nrc-aquatic-crop-resource-development / (FR) canada.ca/developpement-cultures-ressources-aquatiques-cnrc

SPOTLIGHT

NETRAMARK

www.netramark.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials

"At NetraMark, we don't just build algorithms — we build understanding. Each dataset holds unseen patient stories and the subtle signatures of biology. Our goal is to reveal them through mathematics and AI, helping drug developers design successful trials that reflect the true complexity of human disease."

- Dr. Joseph Geraci, Founder & CTO/CSO

NETRAMARK

Transforming Clinical Trials Through Mathematically Augmented AI

Where advanced mathematics, explainable AI, and patient-centric discovery converge to redefine the future of clinical trials.

Spark

Clinical trials remain slow, expensive, and uncertain — often failing because patient populations are more complex than traditional analytics can handle. NetraMark was founded on the belief that medicine deserves better tools. Inspired by breakthroughs in mathematics, neuroscience, and oncology, we envisioned a world where patient variability becomes a source of discovery. In 2017, during the Creative Destruction Lab's Quantum Computing Program, Dr. Joseph Geraci left academia, raised $2 million CAD, and founded NetraMark to reveal the subtle signatures that distinguish one patient population from another — the foundation of true precision medicine.

Approach

At the heart of NetraMark is Mathematically Augmented Machine Learning (MAML) — a proprietary framework combining dynamical systems, information geometry, a long-range memory mechanism, and explainable AI. This memory capability lets our models capture deep feature synergies across iterations, revealing high-impact variable bundles invisible to standard AI. Unlike black-box models, NetraMark discovers explainable patient Signatures — mathematically precise, clinically meaningful subpopulations driving treatment response.

Impact

NetraMark enables data-driven precision in clinical development. Patients benefit from therapies matched to their underlying biology. Clinicians gain transparent, evidence-based enrichment criteria to guide trial design. Pharmaceutical partners can structure smarter, de-risked studies that align with regulatory expectations for reproducibility and generalizability. The result is a measurable acceleration in bringing effective, life-saving treatments to the patients who need them most.

Momentum

Partnerships: World Wide Clinical Trials (link), NIH ketamine trial, and CAMH (ORF-funded).

Breakthroughs: Oncology, Alzheimer's, ALS, MDD, schizophrenia, Parkinson's; first to use quantum computing for lung cancer heterogeneity (2018).

Recognition: ORF grant, Ontario Brain Institute awards, ISCTM poster wins.

Sustainability: Revenue-positive with expanding partnerships and team growth in 2025.

Next

NetraMark enters its next chapter with a clear advantage: our mathematically augmented AI already outperforms conventional AI, ML, and even today's top LLMs in uncovering patient subpopulations and optimizing trial strategies. Building on this, we're developing hybrid intelligence systems that combine explainable Personas with generative reasoning to transform clinical trial design and execution.

We're not keeping pace with innovation — we're setting it. NetraMark's AI-driven enrichment engine transforms clinical trial design by revealing the patient subgroups that truly respond. With transparent, regulatory-aligned, data-driven criteria, pharma and clinicians can run smarter, faster, and more reproducible studies. We turn complex clinical data into actionable intelligence — driving confident decisions and accelerating trial success. becomes the standard.

SPOTLIGHT

NEUROPEUTICS

www.neuropeutics.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Neuro/Pharma

"As scientists and innovators, we are motivated every day by the urgency of ALS. We're not just building treatments—we're building hope for patients and families who have waited far too long."

- Dr. Marc Shenouda, CEO, Neuropeutics

NEUROPEUTICS INC

Redefining the future of ALS treatment

Transforming groundbreaking science into novel therapies bringing hope to patients and families affected by neurodegenerative diseases

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is one of the most devastating neurodegenerative diseases, ranking as the most common cause of neurological death in Canada. ALS is characterized by progressive paralysis leading to death usually within just 2-5 years of diagnosis. Current treatments only slow disease progression modestly, leaving patients and families with limited hope. Founded on scientific discoveries, Neuropeutics is on a mission change this unfortunate reality by developing targeted therapies to extend patients' lives and improve their quality of life.

Neuropeutics' innovation focuses on targeting TDP-43 protein aggregation, the hallmark pathology present in over 97% of ALS cases and a significant subset of dementias. Unlike symptomatic approaches, our therapeutic aims to restore neuronal health by preventing and reversing toxic aggregates and re-establishing normal protein function. By combining deep molecular biology expertise, drug discovery, and translational science, we are advancing a first-in-class small molecule "JRMS-22" as disease modifying treatment. Neuropeutics' novel approach sets us apart as one of the few teams globally tackling TDP-43 pathology head-on.

The most immediate impact will be for ALS patients and their families, offering the possibility of both longer survival and preserved quality of life. Beyond ALS, our therapies have the potential to reach millions of people affected by frontotemporal dementia and other TDP-43-driven conditions, broadening our impact across neurodegeneration.

Neuropeutics has recently entered a significant partnership with LifeArc to develop a lead candidate for clinical trials by 2028. More recently, Neuropeutics' was the recipient of the national AbbVie Biotech Innovators Award further accelerating our mission. In addition to strong collaborations with academic and clinical leaders, these partnerships represent growing confidence in both our science and our mission.

Looking forward, Neuropeutics is committed to advancing JRMS-22 toward clinical trials, expanding our therapeutic platform, and forging alliances with strategic partners to scale our impact globally. Neuropeutics' vision is clear: a future where ALS and related neurodegenerative diseases are treatable.

Neuropeutics' co-founders: Dr. Janice Robertson (Left) and Dr. Marc Shenouda (Right)

May 22, 2025: AbbVie Biotech innovator Award Reception.
Left to Right: Stéphanie Sauvageau (Head of Medical, AbbVie), Marc Shenouda (CEO, Neuropeutics), Arima Ventin (Head of Market Access and Government Affairs, AbbVie), Honourable Minister Nolan Quinn (Government of Ontario), MPP Sheref Sabaway (Government of Ontario), Christina Vorvis (Director, AbbVie Ventures), and Christian Schubert (Head, AbbVie Ventures)

SPOTLIGHT

NOVARTIS

www.novartis.com/ca-en/

Headquarters:
Montreal, Canada

Number of employees:
500+

Sector/Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals: Cardiovascular, Renal, and Metabolic (CRM), Immunology, Neuroscience, and Oncology

"Ontario's strength in science and innovation is helping us deliver global firsts here at home. For patients, these are not just medical advances. They are moments of hope and possibility."

- Erin Keith,
Vice President of Oncology,
Novartis Canada

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

NOVARTIS CANADA

Ontario science and global innovation are bringing patients new hope in cancer and beyond.

At Novartis, our mission is simple but ambitious: to reimagine medicine and improve the lives of patients everywhere. Each year, our treatments reach more than a million Canadians and more than 280 million people worldwide. Whether in cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, immunology, or oncology, we are driven by one goal: helping patients live longer, healthier lives.

Innovation is how we achieve that. We advance bold science, from gene therapies to the use of medical isotopes for cancer treatments, and we work with world-class partners to bring these breakthroughs to life. Ontario is one of those partners. In late 2024, a patient in Ontario became the first in Canada to be publicly treated with our prostate cancer radioligand therapy, which relies on isotopes produced here in Ontario. It was a powerful moment that highlighted how local innovation can deliver life-changing treatment while strengthening the province's position as a leader in global health care.

The impact goes far beyond one milestone. In breast cancer, Novartis continues to develop therapies that extend survival and improve quality of life, giving patients and families new hope. We also invest in Canadian biotech companies such as AbCellera and Borealis Biosciences, helping build the next generation of discovery and strengthening the country's life sciences ecosystem.

And our momentum continues to grow even stronger. Novartis was the first to launch CAR-T therapy, the first to deliver gene therapies for spinal muscular atrophy and for patients with genetic eye disease, and now the first to bring radioligand therapy to Canadians. In Ontario, we have deepened our presence with a new office at the University of Toronto's Schwartz Reisman Innovation Campus, designed to foster collaboration with researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and industry leaders.

Looking ahead, our vision is clear. We want to bring innovative treatments to Canadians faster and we see Ontario as central to that mission. From breakthroughs in breast and prostate cancer to our work in cardiovascular, neuroscience, and immunology, Novartis is committed to transforming care for patients today and shaping the future of medicine tomorrow.

SPOTLIGHT

www.novonordisk.ca

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Global healthcare company that develops and manufactures biological medicines for serious chronic diseases, including diabetes, obesity, and rare blood and endocrine disorders.

"Every child deserves the right to grow up healthy, regardless of who they are or where they live. The best way to improve physical activity, healthy eating, and overall quality of life is with collaborative, evidence-based approaches like *Growing Healthy Places: Mississauga*, which Novo Nordisk is proud to partner on."

- Vince Lamanna, President, Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.

NOVO NORDISK CANADA INC.

Growing Healthy Places: Mississauga

A cross-sector partnership to improve the health and wellbeing of urban school-aged children

In the last 30 years, childhood obesity rates in Canada have nearly tripled, increasing risks for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and cardiovascular disease as well as adverse psychosocial effects. In 2021, higher-than-optimal BMI contributed to an estimated 3.7 million deaths worldwide from NCDs. In Mississauga and other Canadian cities, barriers like food insecurity, limited physical activity opportunities, urban design, and lack of inclusivity continue to impact the health and wellbeing of children.

In March 2025, Ophea (the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association), 8 80 Cities, Brock University and Novo Nordisk Canada Inc. announced *Growing Healthy Places: Mississauga,* a partnership aimed at improving physical activity, health literacy and access to healthy food for school-aged children in underserved communities. The program is the Canadian implementation of Novo Nordisk's Cities for Better Health (CBH) Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative (COPI), a global public-private partnership committed to accelerating change in urban health across generations by building impactful local partnerships to drive health promotion and prevention. The program takes a holistic, prevention-focused approach, emphasizing health equity and the importance of community perspectives.

Growing Healthy Places: Mississauga is a cross-sector partnership bringing together government, academia and non-profits to support schools in the city of Mississauga to co-design, implement, and evaluate community-driven solutions to promote health and wellbeing for school-aged children 6-13 years old. As part of the global Novo Nordisk COPI program, the program will support a larger blueprint for other cities to implement.

Since launching in March 2025, the program has formalized key partnerships with Ophea, 8 80 Cities and Brock University, obtained ethics approvals from the Peel District School Board and Brock University, selected neighbourhoods, recruited participating schools and engaged communities.

The remainder of 2025 will focus on establishing baseline evaluation and continuing co-design with communities and participating schools with the goal of starting activities in early 2026. The impact of the program will be evaluated at three points through 2027.

SPOTLIGHT

www.nucro-technics.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Ontario

Number of Employees:
150-200

Focus Area:
GLP Preclinical Testing / IND-Enabling Studies; GMP QC Product Release Testing; GMP & GLP Medical Device Testing; Analytical Chemistry; Microbiology; Toxicology; Bioanalysis; Genetic Toxicology; In-Vitro ADME; Quality Assurance & Regulatory Affairs Consulting

NUCRO-TECHNICS

Driving Canada's Life Science Industry Forward One Product at a Time

How Ontario's Nucro-Technics Empowers Innovation from Benchtop to Bedside

Spark
Established in 1970, Nucro-Technics has been a trusted provider of GLP and GMP contract research services for more than 55 years and has been supporting companies that are developing innovative therapeutics and medical devices. As a single destination for a company's contract research needs, we conduct the preclinical safety studies that help advance these innovative products safely and efficiently into clinical trials, while also offering QC testing services to support the release of finished drug products to the market.

Approach
As a full-service Contract Research Organization, Nucro-Technics provides an integrated suite of services spanning GLP toxicology through to GMP product release testing. Pharmaceutical companies will engage with Nucro-Technics to fulfill regulatory testing requirements across all phases of drug development. What sets us apart is not just the breadth of our capabilities, but our scientific expertise and collaborative approach. Acting as an extension of our clients' teams, we customize study designs, streamline timelines, and help Ontario innovators meet regulatory requirements without needing to seek support beyond our borders. This consultative approach is appreciated by our clients as it adds value to their research dollars.

Impact
Our work directly benefits innovative biotech companies, established pharmaceutical firms, medical device organizations, and academic partners in Ontario, across Canada, and internationally. We also play a critical role for local pharmaceutical manufacturing sites by providing the specialized regulatory-compliant testing their clients require and that national health agencies like Health Canada and the US FDA expect.

Bringing a new therapy to clinic requires coordination across manufacturing, preclinical studies, and clinical trials. With Nucro-Technics, companies can complete these steps entirely in Ontario. We deliver the required preclinical testing, local partners manage production, and a network of clinical sites enables trial execution. This fully integrated pathway keeps R&D dollars in the province, strengthens Ontario's life sciences ecosystem, accelerates access to patients, and fuels economic growth.

Momentum
As regulatory expectations evolve and therapeutic modalities grow more complex, we continue to expand our capabilities. Ontario is positioning itself as a global leader in life sciences, and our work is central to this momentum. A recent example is our collaboration with Onco-Innovations, an emerging Canadian biotech company that is developing a complex oncolytic. Working alongside both their team and local Ontario contract manufacturer Dalton Pharma Services, we are supporting the advancement of their lead compound toward an investigational new drug submission.

Next
Looking ahead, Nucro-Technics is focused on deepening its support for Ontario's life sciences companies and to further establish Ontario as a global biomanufacturing and life sciences hub. By investing in new technologies, expanding scientific expertise, and fostering partnerships across the ecosystem, we aim to continue empowering Ontario to bring the next generation of therapies and devices to the patients who need them most.

SPOTLIGHT

www.obio.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Non-for-profit, Capital Access & Adoption, Skills Development & Training, Women in Health and Critical Technologies.

OBIO®

Catalyzing Innovation in Canada's Life Sciences & Health Tech Sector

Founded in 2009, OBIO® is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization advancing the next generation of companies developing innovative human health products. Through strategy, programming, policy development and advocacy, OBIO® supports small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across therapeutic, medtech, digital, and consumer health sectors, by enabling them to raise capital, hire and train industry-ready talent, facilitate the market adoption of their technologies in Canadian health systems, and access infrastructure.

Recent impact

- In February 2025, OBIO® launched of its *Health Commercialization Access Program,* supported by a $5-million investment from the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, to accelerate the growth of Canadian biotechnology and health technology companies.
- Earlier this year, OBIO's *Early Adopter Health Network (EAHN™)* reached a significant milestone by surpassing over 80 healthcare partners within its network, helping our healthcare institutions to "Buy Canadian".
- The *OBIO® Women in Health Initiative (WiHI)* continues to be highly successful. In March 2025, women-led companies received investment and commercialization resources through the *WeSEED* program, in partnership with FACIT. Later this year, the *WiHI Seed* program will provide capital, resources and training to a new cohort of women entrepreneurs.
- In May 2025, OBIO® was honoured to receive Life Sciences Ontario's prestigious *Leadership Award*, recognizing and celebrating the outstanding contributions of innovators and leaders shaping and advocating for Ontario's life sciences sector. This recognition marked a special moment in OBIO's 15-year journey supporting the innovations of early-stage and venture-backed health tech companies.

Looking forward

Since 2009, OBIO® has been a strong advocate for early-stage life sciences and health tech companies, bringing their voices to government decision-makers to influence supportive policies. Raising capital remains a major challenge for OBIO® members, especially in the current context of the U.S. trade war. OBIO® will continue to:

- Engage with government officials, industry partners and academic institutions
- Collaborate with national partners, including the National Biotech Accord, to build a globally competitive life sciences sector that strengthens Canadian innovations
- Expand on its Commercialization, Skills Development & Training and Market Adoption programming to address evolving sector's needs
- Advocate for increased wet lab space in Ontario, working with the Wet Lab Coalition to attract public and private investment in this critical infrastructure

SPOTLIGHT

ONTARIO BRAIN INSTITUTE INSTITUT ONTARIEN DU CERVEAU

www.braininstitute.ca

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Research & Innovation

"True advancements in brain health will come by building upon a model of team science and expanding it nationally and internationally; creating the environment to connect clinical data sets and get real value out of the data; transferring knowledge into new policies, practices, and technologies, and keeping patients at the centre of research and innovation."

- Dr. Tom Mikkelsen, Ontario Brain Institute President and Scientific Director

ONTARIO BRAIN INSTITUTE

Leading Innovation in Brain Health

The Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) is a provincially funded, not-for-profit organization that accelerates discovery and innovation in neuroscience, benefiting both patients and the economy.

With a vision is to position Ontario as a world leader in brain research, commercialization, and care, OBI's goal is to improve the lives of people with brain disorders.

Spark

Brain disorders affect one in three people over a lifetime, impacting not just those diagnosed but also their families, caregivers, and communities. The effects of these neurological and mental health conditions range from manageable to life-altering. We need a unified, collaborative approach to meaningfully improve brain health outcomes. Cue the Ontario Brain Institute. The organization leads an integrated approach that accelerates discovery, improves translation to real-world impact, and strengthens Ontario's brain health ecosystem.

Approach

Beyond orchestrating world-class brain research across Ontario, OBI connects and strengthens the province's neuroscience ecosystem through large-scale networks – or Integrated Discovery Programs – comprised of researchers, clinician-scientists, patient partners, neurotechnology developers, and community care providers who benefit from crucial OBI support to translate scientific breakthroughs into care.

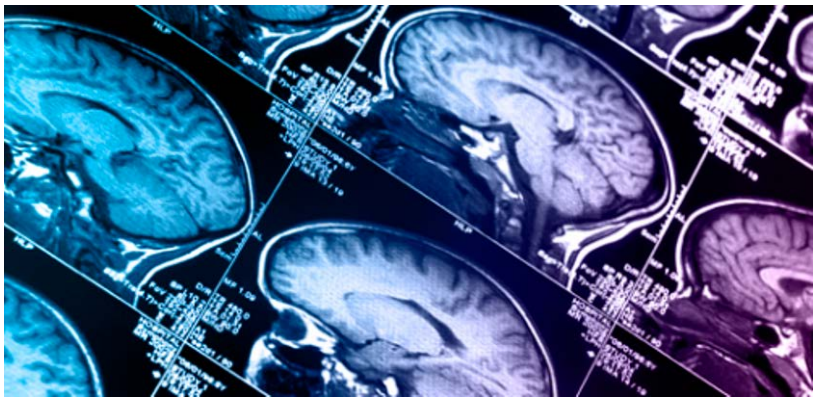
Other key initiatives include:

- The Brain-CODE neuroinformatics platform, enabling over 200 researchers across more than 35 Ontario institutions to collect and analyze brain health data,
- The Centre for Analytics, accelerating the development of skills in neuroanalytics and supports AI/machine learning methods into commercialized technology,
- Commercialization programs like NERVE and NERD, providing milestone-based funding or investment to early-stage entrepreneurs developing brain-related technologies, and
- The GEEK and CORTEX community support programs, building capacity for community organizations to meet patient needs through enhanced programing and new treatments.

Impact

OBI turned the Government of Ontario's investment of $235M into a $750M impact on brain health in Ontario. Cumulative successes include:

- 70+ clinical trials facilitated
- 108 portfolio companies cultivated
- 26x multiplier on neurotech investment
- 65 new intellectual properties granted
- 26 brain health products brought to market
- 29,000+ individual data sets on Brain-CODE
- 20,000+ patients supported
- Two million people reached



SPOTLIGHT

Ontario Genomics

www.ontariogenomics.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Genomics/Biotechnology

"This report shows government and food producers the massive potential for food biomanufacturing and gives the data needed for a national strategy and investment. Food innovation is happening around the world and considering the shifting economic climate, we need to do even more to develop this for Canadians and to export to other countries."

- Elaine Corbett, Director, Strategic Partnerships

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

ONTARIO GENOMICS

The Future of Food is Coming but is Ontario Ready?

Following up on its 2021 report, Ontario Genomics has new analysis for the country's biomanufacturing sector in the Food Innovation in Canada Report, which shows explosive economic and job creation opportunities:

- Food biomanufacturing in Canada could become a $7.5 billion industry creating 40,000 jobs by 2030 with the potential of ballooning to an $18.8 billion industry with 125,000 jobs by 2050.
- Ontario has a $13 billion industry potential that could create over 91,000 jobs.

Spark
Because of climate change and demands from food producers, biomanufacturing ensures our favourite foods are still available, even if they can't be made through traditional methods. Food biomanufacturing uses precision fermentation, cell cultivation or tissue engineering to make foods, ingredients and textiles. It can also diversify production, helping Canada make foods it previously couldn't like cacao and vanilla!

Approach
The Food Innovation report is a projection of what's possible when Canada's food biomanufacturing sector is at full speed but a solid foundation for this massive opportunity is needed first. Ontario Genomics is leading the way with solid data and initiatives. Along with input and feedback from food security and innovation researchers and organizations, University of Guelph's Dr. Michael von Massow provided the economic analysis for this ground-breaking report.

Impact
Ontario Genomics' BioCreate accelerator supports seven Ontario food innovation companies to get their products to market faster. We've partnered with Lambton College on accessible food biomanufacturing micro-credentials that get students ready for jobs laid out in our report.

Momentum
- AcCELLerate-ON in partnership with CFIN – first regional program for food innovation investment
- BioCreate – start-up accelerator
- WasteCANcreate – upcycling biomanufacturing consortium
- Canada's biggest cellular agriculture project ever working to scale cultivated meat production

Next
Ontario Genomics is supporting commercialization by focusing on:

- More start-up investments
- Products on the market
- Federal and international collaboration
- More R&D support for new products
- A modernized regulatory system

SPOTLIGHT

OTTAWA HOSPITAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Why Research IS Care at The Ottawa Hospital

By integrating research into patient care, The Ottawa Hospital is transforming lives and providing hope.

www.ohri.ca

Headquarters:
Ottawa, Canada

Number of employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
Health research

"At The Ottawa Hospital, we believe that excellence requires research and clinical care to be intertwined. Our goal is to reshape the future of health care and integrating research into care is a critical part of this."

- Dr. Rebecca Auer, CEO and Scientific Director, OHRI.

The Ottawa Hospital is at the forefront of a transformative new approach to health care that is rooted in the vision that "research IS care." The goal is to seamlessly integrate cutting-edge research into clinical practice to enhance patient outcomes, drive innovation and provide hope. This vision, championed by Dr. Rebecca Auer, Executive Vice-President of Research and Innovation at TOH, underscores the hospital's commitment to pioneering new therapies and improving access to innovative care for Canadians.

"At The Ottawa Hospital, we believe that excellence requires research and clinical care to be intertwined," says Dr. Auer, who is also the CEO and Scientific Director of the hospital's Research Institute (OHRI). "Our goal is to reshape the future of health care and integrating research into care is a critical part of this."

The Ottawa Hospital is renowned for its leadership in developing new therapies across the full innovation pipeline, from discovery to biomanufacturing to clinical trials and implementation. This comprehensive approach ensures that groundbreaking treatments are not only discovered but also brought to patients in a timely and efficient manner.

The hospital's research is also characterized by meaningful patient partnerships, ensuring that the voices and experiences of patients and family members are integral to the research process.

One of The Ottawa Hospital's recent research successes is the development of the first made-in-Canada Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, in partnership with BC Cancer and BioCanRx. CAR T-cell therapy is a type of biotherapy that is revolutionizing the treatment of blood cancers such as leukemia. It uses a genetically engineered virus to supercharge a patient's own immune T-cells, enabling them to better detect and kill cancer cells.

Access to this therapy has traditionally been very limited, but The Ottawa Hospital's made-in-Canada CAR T-cell research program is making it more accessible to patients across the country, while also fueling the development of even better CAR T-cells for different types of cancers and immune conditions. This innovative program is possible because of dedicated clinical and basic researchers working side-by-side, with support from cutting-edge core facilities such as the Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre and Ottawa Methods Centre.

Rebecca Auer, CEO and Scientific Director, OHRI

The Ottawa Hospital's Biotherapeutics Manufacturing Centre produces innovative therapies for clinical trials

SPOTLIGHT

PFIZER CANADA ULC

Pfizer Canada ULC is the Canadian operation of Pfizer Inc., one of the world's leading biopharmaceutical companies. Our diversified health care portfolio includes some of the world's best known and most prescribed medicines and vaccines. Consistent with our responsibility as one of the world's premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies, we collaborate with health care providers, governments, and local communities to support and expand access to reliable, innovative health care around the world. Pfizer's Canadian footprint includes its headquarters in Kirkland, Quebec and a manufacturing site in Brandon, Manitoba. To learn more about Pfizer Canada, visit pfizer.ca or you can follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, Instagram or YouTube.

www.Pfizer.ca

Headquarters:
New York, USA

Canadian Headquarters:
Kirkland, QC

Number of employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals

Pfizer is tackling global health challenges by innovating and focusing on transformative therapies for the most challenging diseases of our time. For example, we are focused on cancers like breast, lung, and hematologic, aiming to improve survival and quality of life. We are also innovating in vaccines to help protect populations against diseases in areas of unmet need, reinforcing our commitment to global public health.

Pfizer is harnessing the power and potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to revolutionize medicine and vaccine development. For example, AI's processing power is helping to analyze vast data, uncover drug candidates, and prioritize cancer drug targets with our AI platform, OncoScout. This platform improves success rates by 20%, focusing on compounds with the highest potential to become effective medicines.

We aim to impact 1 billion lives annually and promote equitable access through donations and expanded access programs. We partner with patient groups and invest in healthcare infrastructure. Pfizer is a leader in clinical trials with close to 700 active sites in Canada, almost 30% of which are located in Ontario. Pfizer supports scientific progress and public health improvements, investing on average between $12-15M annually in R&D partnerships in Ontario.

Pfizer has provided support to Canadian tech startups and innovators to address key healthcare challenges. Two such companies, Ontario-based CANImmunize and PharmaGuide have benefited from funding, mentorship, and access to Pfizer's expertise and networks with the end goal of driving meaningful change in the healthcare system.

At Pfizer, we are working to transform the lives of patients and their families through the pursuit of innovative treatments and vaccines, while also unlocking the economic and social benefits of improved population health across the country. "Health is wealth," says An Van Gerven, Pfizer Canada President. "Good health is the foundation for individual and community prosperity, and when Canadians have access to quality healthcare, they are better able to participate fully in society, contribute to the workforce, and reach their full potential."

Faster access to cancer treatments can enable patients and caregivers to remain active and productive members of the workforce, benefiting both individuals and the broader economy.

Earlier this year, Pfizer was proud to partner and participate in Research Canada's Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Event in Ottawa - an Innovation Showcase on Disruptive Innovation in Cancer Research.

SPOTLIGHT

PHARMA MEDICA RESEARCH INC.

Driving innovation in clinical trials through technology

www.pharmamedica.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Clinical Research Organization

"We are committed to driving innovation in clinical trials through our proprietary technology, supporting our clients across all phases. This reinforces the confidence and trust our clients expect from an industry leader"

- Mohammed Bouhajib
President & CEO

When founding Pharma Medica Research Inc. (PMRI), the objective was to establish a Contract Research Organization committed to delivering the highest quality data—without compromise. While no two clients are alike, the need for reliable, accurate, high-quality and timely data is universal. Our solution was to develop and validate tailored proprietary software that is not commercially available, and we succeeded.

Our software streamlines data collection, ensures regulatory compliance, and significantly enhances accuracy and efficiency. Its successful implementation has not only improved data integrity and reduced operational risk but also set a new standard for how we conduct and oversee clinical trials.

Approach
We are at the forefront of innovation, powered by our proprietary, in-house developed Electronic Data Capture (EDC) system. Engineered with automated audit trails to ensure full 21 CFR Part 11 compliance, our platform has undergone rigorous audits by the US FDA. It guarantees data accuracy and integrity while streamlining clinical trial workflows. Offering unmatched scalability and flexibility, it seamlessly adapts to studies of any size or complexity. Equally important, it accelerates data analysis and reporting, enabling faster and smarter decision-making.

Impact
By delivering dependable, high-quality data with unmatched speed, we accelerate the development of safe and effective pharmaceutical products for Canadian's and the global market, always keeping the patient at the heart of everything we do.

Momentum
At PMRI, we continue to deliver high-quality results across a range of client projects by investing in internal process improvements that support both scalability and efficiency. This ongoing commitment is reflected in our strong client satisfaction and consistent repeat business demonstrating the trust placed in us by organizations of all sizes, from emerging biotechs to large pharmaceutical companies.

Next
As we move forward, we continue to revolutionize how clinical trials are conducted. Traditional data collection methods result in significant data loss, impacting trial quality and outcomes. Our innovative model is designed to address these inefficiencies, ensuring more reliable, complete, and actionable data throughout the trial lifecycle. "We are committed to driving innovation in clinical trials through our proprietary technology, supporting our clients across all phases. This reinforces the confidence and trust our clients expect from an industry leader" says President & CEO Mohammed Bouhajib.

SPOTLIGHT

PHARMA 4U

www.pharma4u.ca

Headquarters:
Maple, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals

"Compliance isn't just about paperwork — it's about unlocking possibilities. We're not here to slow you down. We're here to launch you."

- Leon Chagal, Founder & Principal Consultant, Pharma 4U

PHARMA 4U

Powering Compliance, Accelerating Access

Transforming Health Canada Licensing from a Bottleneck into a Strategic Advantage for Global Life Sciences Companies

When Leonid Chagal founded Pharma 4U, the mission was clear: help life sciences companies navigate Canada's complex regulatory landscape with confidence. "Too many promising drug and device innovations were delayed or denied market entry due to avoidable licensing and compliance setbacks," says Leon. "I saw an opportunity to be the bridge — to transform red tape into a roadmap."

Approach

Pharma 4U blends regulatory expertise with real-world pragmatism. Rather than offering one-size-fits-all templates, the firm crafts tailored pathways for clients seeking Drug Establishment Licenses (DEL), Medical Device Establishment Licenses (MDEL), and Natural Health Product (NHP) approvals. With a three-phase approach — strategic planning, documentation development, and regulatory submission — Pharma 4U acts not just as a consultant, but as a compliance partner.

Impact

From biotech startups to global manufacturers, Pharma 4U empowers companies to bring safe, effective products to Canadian patients faster. Their work has opened market access for critical therapies, innovative medical devices, and natural health products — supporting both public health outcomes and economic growth. Clients benefit from clear guidance, fewer regulatory setbacks, and measurable acceleration in go-to-market timelines.

Momentum

Pharma 4U has helped over 50 companies achieve licensing success, including first-time market entrants and international firms looking to expand into Canada. The company has established trusted partnerships with testing labs, contract manufacturers, and cold chain specialists, enabling clients to launch with full GMP readiness. A standout moment: guiding a First Nations-owned medical services company through DEL approval for oxygen distribution — a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region.

Next

Looking ahead, Pharma 4U aims to expand its digital regulatory tools, increase international collaboration, and support more mission-driven companies in reshaping global health access through Canadian channels.

SPOTLIGHT

www.qualityandcompliance.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
51-100

Focus Areas:
GMP, Regulatory & Importing Consulting

"I'm delighted to be leading Q&C Services into its next chapter. Founded by Deborah A. Campbell, a true visionary and trailblazer who has since stepped into the CEO role, this company has been built on a strong foundation of success. Looking ahead, I'm deeply inspired by Q&C's vision and values, especially its commitment to quality as a way of life. Together, we're focused on building on that legacy and positioning Q&C for continued growth, innovation, and impact."

- Heather J. Barker, President

Q&C SERVICES

Your Business. Our Expertise.

Delivering expert Canadian quality and compliance solutions, with exceptional customer service, for your regulated products for over 30 years

Pharmaceutical, medical device, and natural health product companies face pressure to keep up with Health Canada's evolving regulatory requirements. Q&C Services removes uncertainty from compliance by delivering specialized expertise in GMP and beyond. Our mission is simple: to translate complex regulations into clear, practical solutions to stay compliant and support long-term growth.

With over 30 years of deep technical expertise and a dedicated team of 60+ specialists, we deliver timely, customized solutions for even the most intricate projects. Our mastery spans a broad spectrum of products, from prescription drugs to biologics to NHPs and medical devices, and we support customers throughout the entire product lifecycle.

Our work ultimately benefits patients and consumers. By helping companies strengthen their quality systems, avoid compliance gaps, and maintain licenses, we reduce the risk of drug shortages, regulatory holds, and costly recalls.

Momentum

- In 2025, we reached our 30-year business anniversary, expanded our team, and helped our global customers successfully import, market, and sell products even amid uncertain economic conditions.
- We were delighted to announce the appointment of a new President, Heather Barker, who brings 25+ years of regulatory experience across sectors as well as sharp business acumen to the leadership team.
- This year, our customers successfully achieved significant objectives, as our team supported them with:
  - o Launching 145+ new products
  - o Importing 750+ pharmaceuticals
  - o Overcoming compliance gaps, including 5 successful license-saving remediations that protected clients' operations and market access
  - o Supporting 300+ successful Health Canada audits, 375+ facility renewals and amendments, and thousands of lot dispositions annually
  - o 500+ licensed foreign sites audited across 30 countries, backed by 10 MSAs with Canada's largest pharmaceutical companies

Next

Q&C Services continues to raise the benchmark for regulatory and quality expertise in Canda's pharmaceutical, medical device, and natural health product sectors. We aim to remain the most trusted partner for regulated product companies, delivering not only compliance but also thought leadership, confidence, resilience, and long-term growth.

Deborah Campbell (Founder & CEO) is joined by leaders from Q&C Services at a recent Annual Business Kick Off meeting.

SPOTLIGHT

Q·RESERVE

https://get.qreserve.com/

Headquarters:
Hamilton, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Resource scheduling and management software for research intensive institutions (universities, hospitals, private life sciences companies, regional innovation centres, government)

"There's an excitement I'm hearing directly from leaders in the research community. They recognize their valuable assets and understand the need to collaborate. It feels like we're at the beginning of a major shift."

- Graeme Brown, CEO & Co-founder

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

QRESERVE

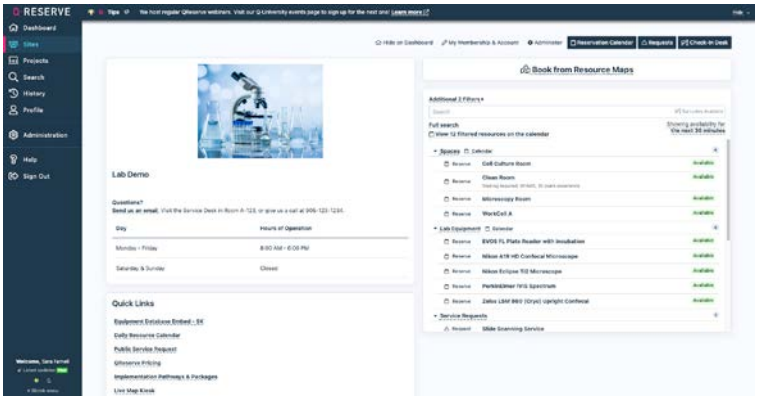
Revolutionizing Resource Management

The innovation economy runs on collaboration, but managing shared resources (equipment, spaces, consumables, people) can be complex and inefficient. At QReserve, we recognized this critical problem and were inspired to build a solution that simplifies how organizations manage and share their most valuable assets. Our approach gives institutions unprecedented control through our customizable rules and workflow engines. Instead of a rigid, one-size-fits-all platform, we empower our users to configure specific rules and requirements for their resources. Our software is a powerful and flexible tool that meets a wide range of needs without significant development effort.

Our work benefits the entire life sciences ecosystem by creating a common language for resource management. By providing a single source of truth, we enable organizations to make data-driven decisions that maximize resource usage and reduce waste. For the users, the platform remains intuitive and easy to use, making it quick and simple to access the resources they need. When labs and research institutions operate more effectively, the entire innovation ecosystem wins.

QReserve has experienced a year of growth, with a particularly exciting spring. We were honoured to be a featured Ontario Life Sciences company at the BIO International Convention in Boston, and were selected from over 230 applicants to represent Scale AI as a top scaling tech company at Viva Technology 2025 in Paris.These opportunities have helped us gain international exposure. We have also begun work with a number of major enterprise customers, confirming the growing need for a common approach to resource management.

Looking ahead, we're excited about the growing desire among Canadian institutions to partner with Canadian vendors. We are currently having discussions to build a national network of connected research institutions – a significant step toward our vision of becoming the leading global enterprise resource management provider.



SPOTLIGHT

RAN BIOLINKS

Building Canada's Smart Infrastructure for Clinical Research

Empowering clinicians and researchers with AI-enabled systems that make trials faster, compliant, and easier to manage

www.maestro.ranbiolinks.com

Headquarters:
Richmond Hill, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Life Sciences / Clinical Research/ AI-enabled data infrastructure

"At RAN BioLinks, we believe clinicians and researchers should be free from administrative burden. Our mission is to deliver intelligent systems that keep trials compliant and efficient, while letting teams focus on what matters most: Bringing discoveries to patients faster."

- Rym Ben Othman, Co-Founder, RAN BioLinks

Spark

Clinical research has long struggled with fragmented systems, manual processes, and inefficiencies that slow the path from discovery to delivery. RAN BioLinks data platform was created to give clinicians and researchers the tools they need: connected, intelligent systems that reduce the burden of trial management and free teams to focus on science.

Approach

Our innovation lies in integration. MAESTRO, our AI-powered platform, unifies the entire clinical trial lifecycle into one intelligent workspace. Clinicians and research teams can manage regulatory files, monitor milestones, review quality processes, oversee compliance, and track finances and project progress seamlessly.

AI-driven automation reduces manual burden by flagging risks, organizing documents for inspections, and keeping distributed teams aligned. The result is a streamlined environment where compliance, efficiency, and transparency are built into the process from the start.

Impact

We enable researchers and clinicians to run more efficient, reliable, and compliant clinical trials, but the impact goes beyond individual teams. By accelerating operations and improving reproducibility, we support discoveries that benefit patients and public health. Internationally, we've partnered with maternal-infant trials in Africa and collaborated with Canadian academic hospitals to close gaps between technology and operations ensuring research excellence is accessible across settings.

Momentum

- Helping Ontario-based researchers and Accelerating Clinical Trials (ACT) associated clinical trial units go fully digital and inspection-ready with Canadian-hosted systems.
- Partnered with Dataiku to embed advanced analytics for real-time decision-making.
- Supported the Born Strong initiative with tools for tracking, documentation, and coordination.
- Collaborated with the national CanReview initiative to advance more unified ethics approvals across Canada.
- Selected to join the Canadian delegation at BIO Japan 2025, showcasing homegrown innovation internationally.

Next

The challenge ahead is adoption in a sector long reliant on manual processes. Yet the opportunity is clear: to establish a Canadian-built platform, made by a Canadian company, that empowers clinicians, researchers, and trial units with modern, technology-enabled infrastructure. By working hand-in-hand with CROs, SMOs, CTUs, and research organizations, we aim to accelerate trial operations, strengthen compliance, simplify oversight, and reinforce Canada's leadership in life sciences.

Rym Ben Othman (Co-Founder and CSO) and Rad Aniba (Co-Founder and CEO) during exhibition at BioJapan, October 8-10, 2025

SPOTLIGHT

ROCHE CANADA

Driving Innovation and Data-Enabled Healthcare in Ontario

www.rochecanada.com

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees:
1800+ employees

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals and diagnostics

"Roche Canada is a willing partner of government, industry, academia, and the patient community across Ontario – with a shared goal to create a world-class healthcare system where all Ontarians benefit from the latest medical innovations, a thriving life sciences sector, and a sustainable healthcare system."

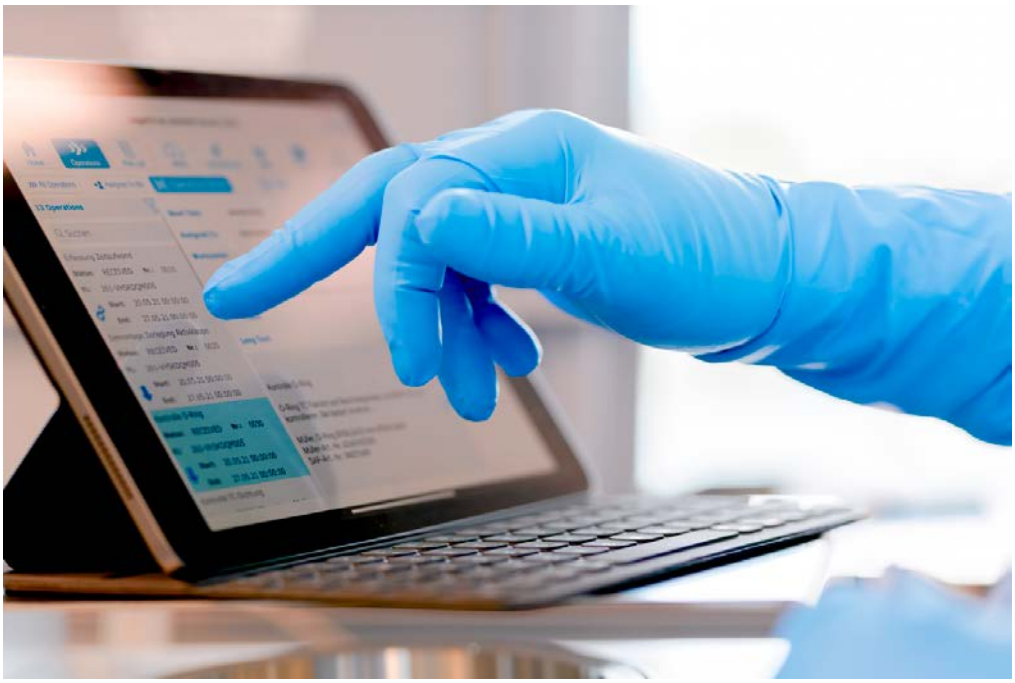
- Brigitte Nolet, President & CEO, Roche Canada Pharmaceuticals, Director, Board of Directors, Life Sciences Ontario

At Roche Canada, patients and science are at the heart of everything we do. We combine our strengths in diagnostics and pharmaceuticals with data-driven insights to advance science and to do now what patients need next. We partner with governments, academia, and patients to build a better future together. As one of Canada's largest research and development investors, Roche drives medical breakthroughs while positioning the country as a global leader in life sciences.

A stable and productive life sciences sector is foundational to a strong economy and healthy society. Unlocking this potential requires proactive support and coordinated efforts to leverage Canada's strengths, including advancements in artificial intelligence. Roche Canada has actively invested in this space, launching "AI with Roche" with partners like Mila and the Vector Institute in 2020, and working with the Government of Ontario to expand our global informatics division in Ontario in 2024, adding up to 250 highly skilled jobs in AI, machine learning, and computational biology over five years to our team of over 1,600 Ontario employees. This $130 million investment is a tangible example of public-private partnership driving economic growth and health solutions.

However, the successful implementation of AI and other innovative health technologies depends on the data systems that these technologies rely on. Fragmented and siloed health data in Ontario and across Canada currently limits innovation and timely access to medicines. This uncertainty is where we see an opportunity to advocate for provincial and national data interoperability to improve access to data for informed healthcare decision-making and expanded and faster access for patients.

Roche Canada's commitment to a data-enabled life sciences sector is transforming healthcare delivery. Our focus on real-world evidence, cutting-edge technology, and collaborative partnerships expands and accelerates patient access and improves outcomes. It also drives economic growth and cements Canada's status as a leader in medical research and innovation. This integrated approach ensures sustainable healthcare systems that enhance patient outcomes and benefit society at large.



SPOTLIGHT

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
www.rvh.on.ca

ROYAL VICTORIA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE

RVH's Pink Zone is Reimagining Emergency Care

How one hospital is easing ED pressures and helping families get care, faster

As Ontario makes valuable progress in its action plan to strengthen primary care access, emergency department (ED) visits for non life-threatening conditions currently account for a quarter of all visits. With EDs mostly seeing more serious and complex cases which are prioritized based on acuity, the wait times for more minor ailments, such as sprains, rashes, fevers and common infections, can be lengthy. Even when a trip to a family physician or walk-in clinic isn't possible, the ED is not the ideal place for these lower acuity visits. The busy environment and wait times can be stressful for patients, particularly those with young children.

At Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) in Barrie, our physicians and nurses asked a simple question: *"Can we make those visits smoother, faster, and more predictable for both patients and frontline staff?"*

A Made-in-Barrie Solution

That question sparked the creation of the ED Minor Ailment Patient Pathway (MAPP), a new approach that allows patients to self-triage, self-schedule, and arrive at a planned time for care. Known locally as "the Pink Zone", this innovation offers effective queue management for individuals who are already coming to the ED by matching the cadence of arrivals with staffing capacity, thereby improving predictability, smoothing flow, and ensuring timely care for minor ailments.

What makes MAPP unique is its digital-first, patient-initiated design developed by RVH through a unique triage algorithm. Rather than arriving unannounced and waiting in line, patients complete a short online questionnaire that confirms eligibility and allows them to select a same- or next-day time slot that fits their schedule. This small change has had a big impact, improving flow without the need for significant additional staff or space.

Designed for Families, Built for the System

More than 11,000 patients have already used MAPP, most for cold-like symptoms or musculoskeletal issues. When compared to low-acuity patients using normal ED processes, MAPP patients waited an average of 1.5 hours less to see a physician and were less likely to return or be admitted to the hospital.

Families have especially welcomed the convenience of arriving at a set time and being seen promptly - a major win for parents and caregivers with young children. Satisfaction scores of MAPP patients exceed 95 per cent, a score virtually unheard of in emergency care.

"Though the process is relatively simple, MAPP supports the broader health system in meaningful ways," says Leanne Weeks, vice president, Clinical, and chief nursing executive at RVH. "By smoothing arrival patterns and helping forecast demand, the platform enables our teams to better plan daily operations, which eases pressure on patient flow and prevents unnecessary bottlenecks."

Scaling Across Ontario

To our knowledge, RVH is the first hospital to demonstrate the safety of patient-initiated self-triage at this scale, empowering patients to assess their symptoms using a guided tool without increasing risk or compromising quality.

Momentum for MAPP continues to grow. The program received the 2024 Barrie Mayor's Innovation Award, is a finalist for the 2025 Ontario Health System Quality and Innovation Awards, and has sparked interest from dozens of hospitals, several of whom are now working with RVH to explore implementing a similar model at their organizations.

SPOTLIGHT

www.Sanofi.com/en/canada

Headquarters:
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Number of employees:
2000+ employees

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals/Vaccines

SANOFI

Championing Sustainable Resource Use

Transforming water and energy use in the pharmaceutical industry

Sanofi is the largest biopharma manufacturer in Canada, investing, innovating and operating across the full life sciences value chain. Driven by R&D and powered by AI, Sanofi is 2,000+ employees strong, focused on delivering an industry-leading pipeline of innovative medicines and vaccines to improve lives and build a healthier Canada.

In addition to an ongoing $1.8 billion investment in biomanufacturing expansions, in 2024, Sanofi announced an investment of $180M CAD to build and update infrastructure in an effort to minimize the environmental footprint at the Toronto Campus. This investment would reduce carbon emissions by 30% and water usage by 20% across the site by 2025.

Two key elements of this commitment included:

- The Energy Project which aims to ensure a reliable electrical and steam supply for current and future Toronto Campus buildings while reducing overall carbon emissions by 30%.
- The Wastewater Treatment and Re-use Plant (WWTRP), a state-of-the-art facility designed to efficiently treat wastewater (sanitary and process); the facility would return treated water to the municipal sewer system at quality levels that exceed local by-law criteria, produce treated recycled water to be used to generate steam in the site boilers, and reduce water consumption by 20%.

The positive impact of this investment is already being seen within Sanofi and the surrounding community. As of August 2025, less than a year after its inauguration, the WWTRP has reclaimed an astounding 99 million litres of reverse osmosis (RO) water that was then used in the site boilers, reducing city water intake by over 99,000 cubic meters.

In June 2025, Sanofi launched their new electrical switchgear, supplying power to the entire campus, and ensuring a sustainable electrical infrastructure capable of supporting the site's operations and future expansions.

Reimagining waste as a resource and investing in energy-efficient infrastructure underscore Sanofi's commitment to the environment. As global challenges like water scarcity and climate change intensify, this forward-thinking approach offers a blueprint for sustainable manufacturing that benefits beyond operations and the planet as a whole.

SPOTLIGHT

ww.seaford.ca

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Multi-specialty pharmaceuticals

"Caribbean heritage and Canadian values shape how I lead. Our mission is to provide Canadians with the most effective therapies and ensure equitable access by taking ownership of how our products reach patients. Leadership is about delivering results that truly matter to those we serve"

.-Tamara Seales, MBA,
President - Seaford Pharmaceuticals

SEAFORD PHARMACEUTICALS INC.

Building a Resilient Future in Canadian Pharma

A family-owned Ontario company with Caribbean roots and women-led leadership is advancing innovation to make therapies more accessible and equitable for Canadians

Spark

Canada's pharmaceutical environment is complex. Tariffs, distribution costs, and global pressures often make therapies less affordable. Inspired by our president's Caribbean heritage and Canadian healthcare values and strengthened by women leaders at both the president and financial levels, we are building a patient-first model rooted in resilience and fairness. Our mission is to deliver the best products to Canadians while supporting sustainable and equitable pathways for the future.

Our Approach

Our growth model rests on three pillars - product independence, pipeline development, and AI integration. Implementing AI applications to generate real-time intelligence, reduce inefficiencies, anticipate demand, and improve commercial efforts. Concurrently, we are expanding our pipeline to broaden and deepen our product offerings. These efforts ensure reliable and affordable therapies.

Our Impact

The patients who benefit most are often overlooked and underheard. Postpartum women needing iron support, Canadians with chronic gastrointestinal conditions, and communities facing inequities in access to care are always front of mind.

Our Momentum

We have sustained operations through various tariffs and high distribution fees. We are steadily expanding our portfolio and preparing to launch a therapy with the potential to help up to 11 percent of Canadian adults avoid surgery. Our resilience has been recognized with the Small Business of the Year honours from the Mississauga Board of Trade and an award from the Canadian Dermatological Association. We have also advanced through partnerships with Innovation Canada, the National Research Council, and support from the Women Entrepreneurship Fund.

What's Next

We are focused on steady growth, team expansion, and developing the niche products Canadians need. By strengthening control over our pipeline and delivery, we can improve access while contributing to Ontario's life sciences ecosystem. Our aspiration is to grow as a domestic pillar, advancing resilience through values-driven leadership and local investment.

Tamara Seales,
President, Seaford Pharmaceuticals

SPOTLIGHT

Seneca POLYTECHNIC

www.senecapolytechnic.ca/innovation/research/centres/scils.html

Headquarters: Toronto, Canada

Number of employees: 500 and above

Focus Areas: Assay Development and Validation, Product Formulation, Method Development and Process Optimization, Product Stability Enhancement and Testing, Quality Control and Regulatory Affairs

"SCILS serves as a cross-sector hub, empowering companies in cosmetics, specialty chemicals, medical technologies and beyond to solve complex R&D challenges and accelerate product development. With advanced laboratory infrastructure, deep expertise, and specialized services, SCILS provides critical services across Ontario."

- Namrata Barai, Dean, Research

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

SENECA POLYTECHNIC

Where Research Meets Real Needs

Scientists, Students, and Industry collaborate to solve challenges in the life sciences, health and beauty sectors

Spark

Developing, enhancing and validating new life sciences technologies or cosmetic products is both complex and expensive. In addition, small and medium-sized companies may not have access to specialized apparatus, technical expertise, or regulatory advice to bring their concepts to market. Without those resources, even the most compelling innovation is destined to be halted in its tracks before it ever lands with customers or patients.

SCILS was designed to reduce innovation barriers by connecting businesses with applied research capability, cutting-edge lab facilities, and talent from Seneca faculty and students. Funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Seneca opened the Centre for Innovation in Life Sciences (SCILS) in 2020.

Approach

SCILS crosses business and academia to deliver solutions to IP development challenges. Businesses partner with Seneca's faculty and students to innovate, improve and verify products they wish to commercialize. Our areas of applied research encompass assay development and validation, product formulation, method development and process optimisation, product stability and enhancement testing, quality control and regulatory affairs underpinned by our strengths in biotechnology, and Canada's sole cosmetic science undergraduate and post-graduate degree program. With specialized facilities like a BioSafety Level 2 lab, a Cannabis research license, a 3000 sq. ft lab space, a GMP-class clean room, SCILS offers access to state-of-the-art facilities that are often out of reach for small and medium businesses.

Impact

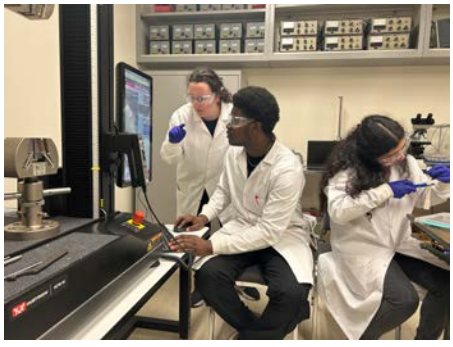
The advantages reach far beyond specific projects. Businesses are able to bring products to market faster and at a lower cost. Students learn through experience, implementing classroom principles to create real-world scientific solutions while learning career-enhancing skills, such as project management and collaboration. Communities gain new, proven products and enhanced local innovation.

Momentum

SCILS has expanded quickly since its inception. Recent projects span molecular diagnostics development, cosmetics formulations, mycelium-based protein development, nutraceutical development, polymerization system development and testing, compost metagenomics investigations, and protein purification for cryo-EM sample prep platform. Ultimately, through its multiple projects, SCILS has demonstrated the ability to deliver high-impact results and address industry requirements and consumer expectations across several industries key to Ontario.

Next

The future for SCILS includes growing its partnerships, building its research potential, and making innovation more accessible to businesses throughout Canada.



SPOTLIGHT

Sheridan

www.sheridancollege.ca/generator

Headquarters:
Ontario, Canada

Number of employees:
500 and above

Focus Areas:
Post-secondary institution, Ontario public college. Our research focus areas related to life sciences include mobile health, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, medical device manufacturing, wearable technology, AR/VR-based simulation and training, individual and community health and well-being across the lifespan, social innovation

"Generator at Sheridan has become a sought-after partner in applied research because we combine deep expertise with a commitment to real-world impact. Our collaborative projects are not just advancing innovation — they're improving health outcomes, supporting industry and driving meaningful change across Ontario's life sciences ecosystem."

- Dr. Vicki Mowat, Dean of Research, Sheridan College

SHERIDAN COLLEGE

Leading innovation with impact transforming life sciences across Ontario

Together, we spark ideas and advance solutions to the issues that matter

At the heart of Ontario's life sciences ecosystem, Generator at Sheridan is driving impact through applied research that bridges cutting-edge innovation and human need — and the results are reshaping lives.

Generator at Sheridan is where purpose and passion unite the extraordinary research, innovation and entrepreneurship undertaken by Sheridan's faculty, staff and students, working across disciplines and sectors, to drive meaningful impact for an ever-changing world. In addition to our exceptional faculty-led research, Sheridan also boasts four renowned research and innovation centres that provide supports to community, industry and government partners. From collaborative problem-solving with partners, to access to our specialized equipment and labs, to our expertise in prototyping, modeling, simulation, testing and more, Generator exemplifies how applied research can deliver measurable impact and real-world outcomes across Ontario's life sciences ecosystem.

Take the Robotic Gait Simulator, which is revolutionizing prosthetic design by reducing the abandonment rate and giving mobility back to those who need it most. In collaboration with prosthetic manufacturer ProsFit Technologies, Sheridan researchers from the Faculty of Applied Science & Technology (FAST) and Centre for Intelligent Manufacturing (CIM) developed a six-axis robotic system that simulates human walking, allowing for rapid testing of prosthetics without subjecting amputees to painful trials. The simulator collects precise biomechanical data to predict discomfort points and guide clinicians in tailoring prosthetics that fit better to improve uptake and long-term use.

Meanwhile, a different kind of innovation is happening at the intersection of diagnostics and AI. Sheridan researchers from FAST and the Centre for Applied AI (CAAI) are helping make Ontario-based telemedicine company Tech4Life's digital stethoscopes not only listen, but think. By training machine learning models on real and synthetic heart data, these upgraded tools arm frontline health professionals with intelligent, real-time diagnostic support, positioning Sheridan at the forefront of the digital health revolution.

On the journey of recovery, a collaboration with McMaster University is changing how breast cancer survivors regain control and redefining how post-cancer recovery is managed. Sheridan researchers from CIM and CAAI have developed wearable tech that tracks arm volume and range of motion post-treatment, alerting users early to complications like lymphedema. With personalized guidance delivered through a cross-platform app, recovery is now informed, proactive and empowering.

And for mindful tech, Sheridan's work with Toronto-based neurotech company Interaxon Inc., led by the Screen Industries Research and Training Centre (SIRT), is setting a new bar. Using AI, electroencephalogram sensors and immersive design, they've built interactive meditation experiences that adapt in real time to a user's brainwaves. Meanwhile, SIRT and the Centre for Elder Research have collaborated on research exploring the use of virtual human characters as companion support for individuals living with dementia. These projects are shaping the future of personalized digital health and redefining how technology can support mental wellness and cognitive care.

These are just five examples. But together, they demonstrate that Generator at Sheridan is more than an innovation hub — it's a catalyst for change, where applied research becomes real-world solution, delivering measurable impact across Ontario.

SPOTLIGHT

www.shoppersdrugmart.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Year Founded:
1962

Number of employees:
55,000

Focus Areas:
Healthcare

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Shaping the Future of Healthcare, Together

Partnering with Canadian innovators to deliver smarter, more accessible care for all Canadians

Shoppers Drug Mart® (SDM) is a leading Canadian retail pharmacy with over 1,350 stores playing a critical role in the delivery of accessible, front-line healthcare and is a strategic healthcare partner dedicated to innovation, preventative care, and system-wide collaboration to enhance patient outcomes.

Amid a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape and mounting pressures on Canada's health system, SDM actively supports homegrown innovation by partnering with Canadian health tech startups and suppliers developing practical, scalable solutions to today's most pressing challenges.

Key collaborations with strategic partners like the CANHealth Network have helped SDM become a launch pad for emerging companies focused on challenges in medication management, clinical decision support, preventative care, digital health, and the development of innovative healthcare products and medical devices that enhance patient outcomes and accessibility.

A notable example is our partnership with Nanotess, a Calgary-based startup behind NanoSALV, an innovative nanotechnology-based wound care product designed to support healing in chronic wounds. Nanotess was matched with SDM through the CANHealth Network to help expand its reach. Leveraging our national pharmacy footprint and healthcare expertise, we worked with Nanotess to integrate the product into our retail system. As a result, this advanced, Canadian-made solution is now available in pharmacies across the country.

These partnerships address the systemic barriers that small suppliers face when trying to scale. By offering real-world testing environments, clinical expertise, and national infrastructure, SDM accelerates the journey from concept to commercialization. This process delivers meaningful innovations to patients while strengthening Canada's life sciences ecosystem by supporting local companies, creating economic opportunities, and helping retain intellectual property and talent within our borders.

The impact goes far beyond our stores. Every successful partnership sends a message that Canadian innovation can thrive and that the solutions developed here can drive better care for communities across the country.

Looking Forward

Looking ahead, SDM is committed to expanding its role as an innovation enabler. By focusing on partnerships promoting equity, access, and preventative care we are supporting a system where Canadian suppliers are thriving, and where all Canadians benefit from health solutions developed at home.

Nanotess at the Shoppers Drug Mart Pharmacist's Conference in Toronto

Karen Sullivan, Senior Director Academic and Health Systems Partnerships (SDM) and An John Nguyen, Director, Strategic Insights & Company Support (CANHealth) alongside Canadian companies supported through the SDM - CANHealth partnership

SPOTLIGHT

SickKids

Industry Partnerships & Commercialization

https://ipc.sickkids.ca/

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Health Care, Research and Innovation

"SickKids is a remarkable institution, where the integration of research, education, and clinical care sparks innovations that are transforming both child and adult health alike. We are eager to collaborate with partners who share our vision and can help bring these innovations to patients through investment and commercialization."

- Ihor Boszko, Executive Director, SickKids IP&C

SICKKIDS INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS & COMMERCIALIZATION

From Discovery to Impact: How SickKids is Driving Innovation in Health Care

SickKids Industry Partnerships & Commercialization is creating an end-to-end ecosystem that transforms in-house discoveries into medical solutions for children and families globally.

Ranked the #1 paediatric hospital in the world (*Newsweek,* 2025), The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) is a powerhouse of innovation where breakthroughs in research, education, and clinical care are shaping the future of child health. Yet translating innovation into practice is a complex journey, one that requires resources, guidance, partnership, and market understanding. In our ongoing commitment to improving child health, SickKids is building the ecosystem needed to ensure these discoveries achieve real patient impact.

The Industry Partnerships & Commercialization (IP&C) office leads this effort, offering a comprehensive pathway of support that reaches beyond tech transfer, providing IP management, education, funding, and advisory resources that guide innovators through translation and commercialization:

- **Invention to Innovation (I2I) Education Series**: Lectures and workshops that prepare staff with the knowledge to protect intellectual property and navigate commercialization pathways.
- **Proof of Principle (PoP) Grant**: Early-stage funding to validate feasibility and generate data to attract investment and partnerships.
- **Technology Advancement Program (TAP)**: Later-stage funding and guidance to advance projects with high commercial potential through key development milestones.
- **Commercial Advisory Board (CAB)**: Experienced industry leaders who guide TAP investments, offer market insights, and provide tailored mentorship to our innovators.
- **SickKids Innovation Showcase**: External event that highlights high-potential SickKids innovations, giving investors, industry partners, and entrepreneurs a first look at technologies ready for licensing, start-up creation, and collaboration opportunities.

In 2024–2025, IP&C recorded 53 new invention disclosures and executed 47 licenses, spanning therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, research tools, and educational resources. Looking ahead, we will continue to broaden our support and lay the foundation for an in-house pre-commercial accelerator. Our goal is to ensure every promising SickKids innovation has a clear path from discovery to impact, advancing care and improving outcomes for children and families at our institution and beyond.

Dr. Xi Huang, Senior Scientist in the SickKids Developmental & Stem Cell Biology program, shares his innovative approach to developing a designer peptide therapy for glioblastoma with a donor at an open house event.

Dr. Adam Shlien, Senior Scientist in the SickKids Genetics & Genome Biology program and co-founder of NewCode Oncology, collaborates with his laboratory team to advance precision oncology research.

Dr. Jayne Danska, Senior Scientist in the SickKids Genetics & Genome Biology program, discusses her pioneering methods for evaluating immunotherapy efficacy in type 1 diabetes at the SickKids Innovation Showcase.

SPOTLIGHT

SomaDetect

https://somadetect.com

Headquarters:
Tillsonburg, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Agriculture IT

"SomaDetect started as an idea to help dairy farmers and is now a real-world solution that covers all key aspects of dairy herd management. We work tirelessly to stay ahead of the curve and adapt to the needs of dairy farmers. Our solutions continue to challenge the industry norm and unlock new protocols for farmers, only available through the use of artificial intelligence. We are thankful for the support of thought leaders, like TechAlliance, who have been instrumental in our journey, and we look forward to continuing the momentum".

- Nicholas Clermont, Chief Operating Officer

SOMADETECT

Moo-ving dairy into the future

SomaDetect's in-line sensors give farmers real-time insights to improve herd health and milk quality

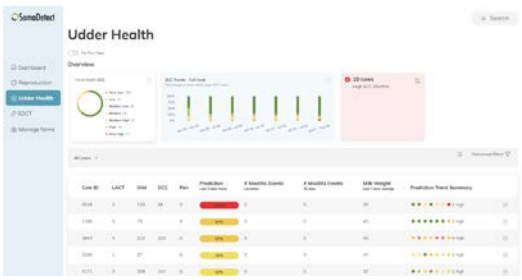
SomaDetect was founded to address one of the biggest challenges in dairy production: identifying and managing cow health issues early and accurately. Dairy farmers need timely, actionable data to keep cows healthy, improve milk quality, and sustain profitable operations. Inspired by the idea that a simple drop of raw milk could hold critical information to guide farm decisions and that harnessing this data could transform the future of dairy farming led Co-Founders, David Blyth and Bharath Sudarsan, to lay the foundation of SomaDetect.

Unlike traditional lab testing or delayed diagnostics, SomaDetect provides on-farm, real-time analysis directly from the milking line. Their patented in-line sensor technology collects data from every cow at every milking, generating insights on herd health, milk quality, and production efficiency. This integration of advanced imaging, AI, and sensor technology enables farmers to take immediate action, setting them apart from existing agtech solutions.

SomaDetect's technology not only contributes to dairy farmers who benefit from healthier cows, reduced veterinary costs, and improved milk yields, but also consumers who benefit through higher-quality, safer dairy products. The broader agricultural ecosystem benefits from more sustainable farming practices, including reduced antibiotic use and better herd management. By strengthening Ontario's agri-tech sector, this innovative agtech also contributes to rural economies and Canada's leadership in agri-innovation.

Scaling installations across North America, securing strategic partnerships with leading dairy operations, and validating technology on commercial farms, including large-scale dairies in Ontario, the company has achieved major milestones in the past year. The team has also secured significant grant funding, expanded their team, and strengthened collaborations with research institutions and government partners. These achievements highlight the strong market demand and trust in our solution.

Looking ahead, SomaDetect is focused on scaling adoption of our technology across global dairy markets. By continuing to innovate at the intersection of life sciences and agriculture, the comapny aims to redefine herd health management and create a more sustainable future for dairy farming worldwide.



SPOTLIGHT

SPARKED INC.

Smart Saliva

Heart health screening in your hands, results in minutes

www.sparkedscreening.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Health technology and cardiovascular disease

Problem and Impact

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is the second leading cause of death in Canada, responsible for close to 25% of all fatalities. Although 80% of CVD cases are preventable, and for some reversable, *if* detected early enough, early detection is not easy. CVD screening is a cumbersome and costly process involving visits to physicians and relying on clinical diagnostics.

Approach

Driven by 5 years of research and a track record for innovation, our team has developed a point-of-care solution which screens for risk of CVD using the proteins found in saliva. It features a proprietary screening tool, allowing us to indicate the users level of risk for CVD as low, moderate or high without the need for user-training or technical equipment.

Key Wins

Our team has prioritized the advancement of our technology by securing lab space with U of T's SpinUp wet lab incubator (2025), filing our provisional patent with the U.S Patent Office (2024) and reporting analytical accuracy with patients with dilated cardiomyopathy. To support commercialization, we were accepted into the Lab2Market Launch 2025 cohort and received the BioHubNet 2025 Venture Lift grant (2025). Notable awards include Temerty Faculty of Medicine Pitch Perfect winners (2024), H2i's Top female-led company (2022), and U of T's Entrepreneurship, Top Early-Stage Company (2022).

Looking Forward

Our proprietary technology brings screening to where it matters most: at-home and into the user's hands, furthering new standards in screening and preventative health.

Sparked's first screening pillar targets systemic inflammation, a key driver of CVD – for which we have engineered and filed a provisional patent for a semi-quantitative assay. Our second screening pillar focuses on screening of patients with heart failure – now in laboratory development.

Our vision is to lead the field by advancing non-invasive, affordable, and rapid tools for the screening and management of heart health. Beyond our scientific aspirations, we are deeply committed to supporting underrepresented women in leadership as a female-founded and led health tech company.

SPOTLIGHT

Stem Cell Network | Réseau de Cellules Souches
Powering Regenerative Medicine | Propulsons la médecine régénératrice

www.stemcellnetwork.ca

Headquarters:
Ottawa, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Innovation and Research

Did you know?
An international survey of experts conducted by SCN in Summer 2025 confirmed that Canada continues to be a global leader in regenerative medicine. Since 2020, Canada has consistently ranked among the top five worldwide, holding the third position in both 2020 and 2025, behind only the United States and Japan and ahead of the United Kingdom, China, Australia, and other nations.

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO MEMBER

STEM CELL NETWORK

Transforming Lives Through Regenerative Medicine

Canada's national network driving research, training, knowledge mobilization and commercialization to deliver life-saving innovations for the benefit of all

The Stem Cell Network (SCN) is a national not-for-profit that supports four main objectives: funding stem cell and regenerative medicine (RM) research; training the next generation of highly qualified personnel; enabling knowledge mobilization of research; and enhancing the commercialization readiness of stem cell and RM innovations.

Created in 2001 with support from the Government of Canada, the Network has grown from a supporting a few dozen labs to more than 350 world-class research groups, powering more than 280 research projects and 30 clinical trials. Since its inception, more than $162M has been invested in research and clinical trials nationwide, catalyzing or enhancing over 28 biotech companies and training more than 7,900 highly qualified personnel. In 2023, the Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to SCN by providing additional funding through the Strategic Science Fund, ensuring support for SCN's activities and research through to the end of the decade.

Momentum and Key Wins

Over the past year, SCN-funded investigators made significant advances in diabetes, cardiac disease, high-risk blood cancers, lung and liver repair, muscular dystrophy, and neurodegenerative diseases. Building on this progress, in June 2025 SCN awarded $13.5M to 36 new research projects, complemented by $19.5M in partner support, to drive discoveries across 14 disease areas — including rare conditions such as Rett syndrome and cystic fibrosis.

To accelerate the path from lab to market, SCN launched the Incubation Investment Award Program in August 2025, offering up to $1M per company to help pre-seed and seed-stage regenerative medicine ventures overcome scientific hurdles and attract private investment. A new partnership with Capital BioVentures ensures select companies also benefit from expert mentorship and guidance.

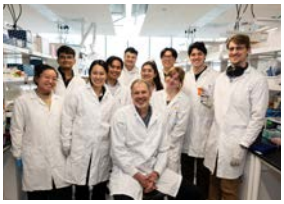
Momentum was also evident across biotechs founded by SCN-funded researchers, with companies such as Satellos Bioscience, Morphocell Technologies, ExCellThera Inc., Aspect Biosystems, and Axolotl Biosciences advancing their pipelines. A 2024 internal analysis found that every dollar invested by SCN leveraged more than $30 in private investment, underscoring the Network's role in building Canada's biotech sector.

Training remained a cornerstone of SCN's mission, with 961 learning opportunities delivered through 34 events. To further strengthen Canada's talent pipeline, SCN also launched a new doctoral award program focused on the social, ethical, and economic implications of regenerative medicine.

Looking Forward

Powered by two decades of success, SCN is a central driver of Canada's life sciences ecosystem, and the only national network with a proven track record for continued excellence and impact in regenerative medicine.

As it has throughout its history, SCN will continue fostering a strong, diverse, pan-Canadian research community – a community that is connected by a common vision: to transform lives through regenerative medicine.



Dr. Peter Zandstra's Lab, University of British Columbia

Dr. Stephen Ong Tone's Lab, Sunnybrook Research Institute

Dr. Bernard Thébaud's Lab, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

SPOTLIGHT

sunpharma.com/canada/

Global Headquarters:
Mumbai, India

Number of employees:
500+

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals / Healthcare (Generics, Branded and Consumer Health medicines)

Sun Pharma Medical Dermatology Team – Dedicated to expanding access to high-quality, innovative and affordable therapies for Canadian patients.

SUN PHARMACEUTICAL CANADA INC.

Advancing Access and Innovation in Canadian Healthcare

Leveraging global expertise to deliver high-quality, affordable medicines and breakthrough therapies that improve patient outcomes across Canada.

Sun Pharma Canada Inc. is committed to making a meaningful impact on patient health through the advancement of accessible, high-quality medicines. As a subsidiary of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., the world's fourth largest specialty generic pharmaceutical company, Sun Pharma Canada leverages a strong global legacy in generics and is actively expanding into branded innovative medicines. Its portfolio includes both generic and branded specialty prescription and Consumer Healthcare products, meeting diverse needs across therapeutic areas for patients, healthcare professionals and the broader healthcare system. Its Brampton, Ontario plant manufactures 63 million doses annually for Canada and global markets, including the United States. Driven by its mission of "Reaching People. Touching Lives." Sun Pharma has a culture driven by diversity, ethical practices and collaboration.

Developing innovative therapies that can address unmet patient needs is a complex and lengthy journey. Raising awareness among healthcare providers and patients about the latest treatment options adds another layer of challenge. Sun Pharma Canada remains committed to advocating for more streamlined approval processes and enhanced education, helping to ensure the timely delivery of essential medicines to those who need them.

Sun Pharma Canada bridges affordability and innovation by leveraging a global R&D network and investing over $500 million CAD in research in FY2023. The company provides Canadians access to high-quality, cost-effective medicines in medical dermatology, oncology, ophthalmology, neurology and cardiology.

- **Branded Product Therapies:** Sun Pharma invests in R&D to bring breakthrough treatments to market, particularly in complex disease areas where unmet needs remain.
- **Generic Medicines:** The company is a leader in providing affordable and reliable generic medicines, helping to alleviate cost pressures within the Canadian healthcare system.
- **Consumer Health:** Sun Pharma's Consumer Healthcare division is experiencing strong growth, delivering over-the-counter (OTC) products such as shampoos with active medical ingredients to address everyday health needs.

People living with serious medical conditions. Everything we do at Sun Pharma centers around the patient and working to provide innovative treatment options that address unmet medical needs. In addition to patients, Sun Pharma Canada partners with healthcare providers, patient organizations, and government bodies to improve education, access and adherence. Through community programs and patient support initiatives, the company enhances public health and wellness across Canada.

KEY WINS

Sun Pharma Canada has introduced first-to-market therapies in medical dermatology, ophthalmology, neurology, oncology and cardiology, improving patient outcomes and quality of life. Its generics portfolio has driven substantial cost savings for patients and the healthcare system. By harnessing global research capabilities, Sun Pharma Canada has expanded clinical development partnerships and accelerated the introduction of innovative treatments to the Canadian market.

LOOKING FORWARD

Sun Pharma Canada is dedicated to expanding access to high-quality, innovative, affordable therapies through ongoing research, strategic collaborations and patient-centered programs supporting the well-being of Canadians for years to come.

SPOTLIGHT

www.synapseconsortium.com

Headquarters:
Hamilton, Ontario

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Ecosystem for the life sciences and medical innovations sector

"Our mission is to serve as a strategic launchpad that can lift the sector across Ontario, so that every innovation has the chance to achieve real-world impact and scale."

- Alex Muggah, Director, Synapse Life Science Consortium

SYNAPSE LIFE SCIENCES CONSORTIUM

The strategic broker for Hamilton's life sciences sector

Linking research and commercial application to build pathways for health innovation.

Spark

Far too often, groundbreaking ideas and research are stranded in silos, disconnected from partnerships and resources needed to bring them to fruition. The Synapse Life Science Consortium was created to build a connected community where great minds and essential resources can converge.

Home to globally recognized research institutions, top academic centres, and two of Ontario's largest hospital networks, the Synapse Consortium was formed to bridge the gap between academic research, entrepreneurial innovation, and commercial application to help accelerate the development and adoption of new health technologies.

Approach

The Synapse Consortium provides hands-on guidance, an online directory, and monthly ecosystem meet-ups to help form connections and collaborations throughout the regional life science ecosystem. Serving the cluster as its unified voice, the Consortium is dedicated to amplifying the success of the sector through annual survey reporting and an informational brochure, rich with data and insights, designed to position Hamilton, as well as Ontario, as a global leader in life sciences.

Impact

The Synapse Consortium's work benefits the ecosystem at various stages. Emerging companies gain access to vital networks and expertise to scale, while established institutions find new technologies to integrate. By connecting diverse stakeholders such as startups and healthcare institutions, the Synapse Consortium leverages the collective strength of the region to foster a well-equipped healthcare system.

Momentum

Over the past year, the Synapse Consortium has grown to represent 230+ life science companies, hosted 550+ attendees at its monthly ecosystem meetings, and has made 250+ warm introductions. In 2024, the Consortium welcomed its tenth partner, Launchit Solutions, further driving the industry's collective commitment to growing the sector. Alex Muggah, Director of the Consortium, was honored with the 2025 LSO Community Impact Award.

Next

The future of Synapse's work is focused on unlocking the full potential of health innovation. The organization will continue to identify novel opportunities for collaboration, ensuring our partners and members find the resources and connections needed to achieve their ultimate impact.

SPOTLIGHT

www.takeda.com/en-ca

Canadian Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada
Year founded:
2009 (Canada), Founded in Japan in 1781

Number of employees:
Approximately 165

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals

Canadian Footprint

- 46 ongoing clinical trials
- 144 clinical trial sites
- 494 enrolled patients
- 122 investigators
- 16 Real World Evidence ongoing studies

"We believe empowering patients with flexible treatment options is key to advancing scalable, patient-centered care models that improve outcomes and strengthen healthcare systems."

- Vatro Mateljic, General Manager, Takeda

TAKEDA CANADA

Takeda is a 244-year-old global, values-based, R&D-driven biopharmaceutical leader headquartered in Japan, committed to bringing Better Health and Brighter Future to patients by translating science into highly innovative medicines.

We are guided by our values of Takeda-ism which incorporate Integrity, Fairness, Honesty, and Perseverance. They are brought to life through actions based on our philosophy of Patient, Trust, Reputation and Business—in that order.

From efforts to ensure access to treatment to supporting physicians, Takeda is dedicated to advancing healthcare in Canada. Since 2017, Takeda has invested $1.4 billion CAD in research and development in Canada.

Our way to better health is by advancing science to develop leading innovations in gastroenterology, oncology, neuroscience, and rare diseases to meet the needs of Canadians. We also make targeted R&D investments in plasma-derived therapies and vaccines, and we support our communities through philanthropic, environmental, and DE&I programs.

Helping Deliver Patient-Centric Care to Ontarians at Home

As healthcare systems face mounting pressures, there's an urgent need to reimagine care delivery. One promising solution is empowering more patients with flexible, personalized treatment options that meet them where they are: at home.

Managing complex diseases is particularly challenging for Ontarians living with conditions like primary immunodeficiency (PID), where the immune system is weakened or missing from birth; secondary immunodeficiency (SID), caused by illnesses or treatments such as chemotherapy; and chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), a long-term disorder where the immune system attacks the nerves.

Frequent hospital visits can be burdensome or challenging. Home-based care models offer an alternative that prioritizes patient independence, convenience, and quality of life.

One example of how Takeda and other pharmaceutical companies are supporting home-based care for these types of patients is through subcutaneous immunoglobulins (SCIGs) therapies. Immunoglobulins (IGs), derived from human plasma, are essential life-saving treatments for patients with rare, chronic and debilitating diseases with no alternative treatments.[1] Unlike intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapies, which require administration in a healthcare facility, SCIG therapies offer patients, who have received appropriate training, with the flexibility of home infusion.

Many SCIG therapy options allow for less frequent infusions and more convenient dosing schedules compared to IVIG therapies, reducing treatment time and potentially improving adherence, especially for patients in rural or underserved areas.[1]

Patients overwhelmingly prefer home-based care. In one study, 89 per cent of patients across PID, SID, and CIDP indicated they would choose home treatment if given the option, citing convenience, reduced travel, and control over infusion timing as key factors.[1, 2]

SCIG therapies also support broader healthcare system goals – freeing up hospital infusion capacity, reducing wait times, lowering costs and minimizing exposure to infections.[3,4,5] Takeda remains committed to working with healthcare partners and stakeholders to continue expanding access to home-based treatment options for patients who can benefit from these treatments.

References:

[1]Health Quality Ontario. Home-based subcutaneous infusion of immunoglobulin for primary and secondary immunodeficiencies: a health technology assessment. Ont Health Technol Assess Ser [Internet]. 2017 Nov;17(16):1-86. Available from: http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence-toimprove-care/journal-ontariohealth-technology-assessment-series
[2]Johansen, M. B., Kass, E. D., & Hauge, A. M. (n.d.). En undersøgelse af fagprofessionelles og patienters erfaringer med subkutan hjemmebehandling. Vive.Dk. Retrieved April 11, 2025, from https://www.vive.dk/media/pure/mxbde2rz/24748728 (Page 8 - Paragraph 3)
[3]Health Quality Ontario. Home-based subcutaneous infusion of immunoglobulin for primary and secondary immunodeficiencies: a health technology assessment. Ont Health Technol Assess Ser [Internet]. 2017 Nov;17(16):1-86. Available from: http://www.hqontario.ca/evidence-toimprove-care/journal-ontariohealth-technology-assessment-series
[4]Fu et al. Home-based subcutaneous immunoglobulin therapy vs hospital based intravenous immunoglobulin therapy: A prospective economic analysis. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 120 (2018) 195–199
[5]Ritchie et al. Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology (2022) 18:99. ttps://doi.org/10.1186/s13223-022-00735-6

SPOTLIGHT

technologytraceinc.com

Headquarters:
Waterloo, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Med Tech IoT

TECHNOLOGY TRACE

Ontario Hospitals Adopt Technology Trace's trevii for Medical Asset Management to Improve Patient Flow

Real Time Tracking Yields 5X Improvement in Medical Asset and Staff Utilization

Technology Trace is a Waterloo-based medical technology company that has launched trevii, the world's first boundless and intelligent IoT tracking solution for portable medical devices. By affixing a trevii to a medical device, trevii helps hospitals and medical device owners track the real time location and utilization of medical devices anywhere across North America, both within hospitals and home-based care scenarios.

Our patented trevii Real Time Locating System (RTLS) shows the room and in-use status of a medical device using no hospital IT support infrastructure. For in-home applications, trevii provides device utilization data to an anonymized location, ensuring security and privacy. With no installed IT infrastructure, trevii has significant cost advantages and additional value over conventional RTLS technologies.

Our trevii solution solves a very unique problem experienced by medical device owners. Through the ongoing process of care for patients in-home and within hospitals, medical device owners experience loss, misplacement, and inefficiencies in the management of high-valued portable medical devices. This problem generates wasted hours searching and reconciling devices and creates a false need for excess unutilized asset inventory.

We have deployed trevii in Ontario hospitals to showcase how the tracking of beds, stretchers, and dialysis machines helps improve efficiencies and save costs. The deployments show that trevii is suited for critical medical devices shared across several departments. Hospital staff have the ability to see where the "closest available" medical device is, saving precious time. The measured results have shown a 100% reconciliation rate of tracked devices to a "within-room" level accuracy and a 98% measured floor level prediction.

Technology Trace aims to create more awareness to the cost savings opportunities that exist with boundless location and utilization tracking of medical devices. Our goal is to have trevii become a trusted brand in the Canadian and United States healthcare systems for medical device management. Technology Trace plans to extend the trevii solution to additional service offerings, including staff duress and patient applications.

SPOTLIGHT

www.tenomix.com

Headquarters:
London, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Pathology/Robotics/Imaging

"At Tenomix, we are building a new category of intelligent automation in pathology to help healthcare teams do their work faster, more consistently, and with less strain. We're proud that ground-breaking innovations like this are being developed in Canada, with the hope of making a global impact for pathology labs, hospitals, and patients worldwide. It's a surreal and humbling feeling to see how far we've come, and we're just getting started."

- Saumik Biswas, Co-Founder

TENOMIX

Redefining cancer diagnostics, one lymph node at a time

Pioneering a new category of intelligent pathology automation

Identifying lymph nodes in surgically removed cancer tissue samples can be a complex and highly manual task for pathology teams. This critical workflow step is essential for informing patient care decisions, yet it is time-consuming, error-prone, and costly. Tenomix, a medtech company combining robotics, AI and ultrasound technology, is working to transform this process. Co-founded by Saumik Biswas, Eveline Pasman, Michael Lavdas, and Sherif Abdou, Tenomix was founded during the Medical Innovation Fellowship program at Western University, where the team came together around the challenge of improving pathology workflows. For CEO Saumik Biswas, the mission is also personal: his exposure to extraordinary medical innovation through the treatment that cured his brother's rare bone condition in his leg, and the loss of his young aunt to colon cancer, inspired him to pursue a career in medical innovation.

A labour-intensive process, searching for cancerous lymph nodes in surgically removed colon tissues has long been compared to finding a needle in a haystack. Pathology staff must carefully dissect tissue samples to collect lymph nodes for further evaluation: a process that can take hours and is prone to variability. With Tenomix's bench-top robotic platform, called The Lymphonator, surgically removed tissues are automatically scanned, and the system intelligently identifies, marks and maps the location of lymph nodes to streamline the retrieval process.

The technology being built by Tenomix is a testament to Ontario's world-class medical innovation landscape. The company is actively collaborating with leading hospital partners in Canada and the U.S. to advance its technology. That's not all – in early 2024, during one of the toughest fundraising climates in recent memory, Tenomix also closed an oversubscribed $2.1M all-Canadian pre-seed round. This included $500,000 from the Ontario Center of Innovation's Life Sciences Innovation Fund, alongside a $1.6M co-investment by FACIT, Phoenix Fire/Archangels, strategic angel investors, and the Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization, which invested through its Women in Health Initiative seed program. Since then, the team has made monumental progress in advancing its technology and positioning for commercialization. Building on this momentum, Tenomix has now opened its highly anticipated seed round to bring their innovation to market — a pivotal next step toward global impact.

From left to right - Sherif Abdou, Saumik Biswas, Michael Lavdas and Dr. Eveline Pasman

SPOTLIGHT

www.mito2i.ca

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas: Mitochondria Health

"We believe mitochondrial transplantation will reshape the landscape of regenerative medicine. This isn't about managing disease. It's about restoring life at its most fundamental level — and ensuring that this breakthrough reaches everyone."

- Ana Andreazza, Pharm, PhD
Professor, Departments of Pharmacology & Toxicology and Psychiatry, University of Toronto
Canada Research Chair in Molecular Pharmacology of Mood Disorders
Thomas C. Zachos Chair in Mitochondrial Research
Scientific Director, Mitochondrial Innovation Initiative

THE MITOCHONDRIA INNOVATION INITIATIVE (MITO2I) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MITO2i's objective is to revolutionize the understanding of mitochondrial health and illness, thereby improving diagnostic methods and therapies to enhance well-being and quality of life. We aim to advance healthcare by seamlessly integrating considerations of mitochondrial health into routine care.

MITO2i aims to address the most complex and debilitating global health challenges of our time, mental illness, metabolic diseases, organ failure, and aging. MITO2i is transforming how we understand and treat disease, by restoring mitochondrial function to enable healing at the cellular level through bold, interdisciplinary approaches, integrating regenerative medicine, precision diagnostics, policy, and community-led innovation.

Approach
MITO2i has built a powerful interdisciplinary and diverse research ecosystem of over 650 members; including researchers, clinicians, trainees, patients and advocates, academic institutions, NGOs, and industry partners. With these collaborations and partnerships, MITO2i accelerates the development of novel mitochondrial diagnostics, biomarkers, and therapeutics, advancing personalized medicine and more equitable health outcomes. Our interdisciplinary collaborative approach allows us to co-design research priorities with patient advocates, Indigenous advisors, and public health leaders, ensuring, diagnostics, therapeutic development and clinical trial reflect lived experience and equity frameworks.

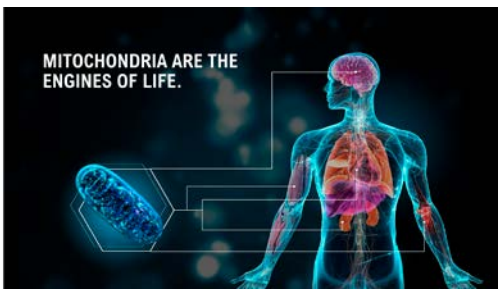
Impact
MITO2i continues to make an exceptional impact forwarding mitochondrial research areas. It has supported over 150 scientific publications, graduate scholarships, and high-impact innovation projects.

MITO2i stays engaged with our patient, underrepresented and Indigenous communities providing them opportunities to have their voices. MITO2i programs are aimed at building awareness in the mitochondrial medicine, research and patient advocacy community. This interdisciplinary approach has been instrumental in driving impactful research and advancing our understanding of mitochondria in various fields of study.

Momentum
One of the proudest accomplishments of MITO2i is our mitochondria transplantation program. MITO2i brought together an interdisciplinary team pioneering therapies aimed at restoring cellular function and preventing organ injury, which culminated with the recent achievement of the NFRF Transformation $23.8M 6-year grant to support the research project *MitoRevolution: Mitochondria Transplantation Transforming Regenerative Medicine – from research to patient care to global impact.*

Next
MITO2i has already positioned Toronto as a world hub for mitochondrial innovation. The level of collaboration spans nationally and globally.

With that MITO2i is excited to announce its new expansion into a Mitochondrial Center of Excellence with 4 strategic research themes and 10 Scientific Co-Leads. The Centre is looking to support research, trainees and communities looking to further our understanding of mitochondria disease and dysfunction and partners to develop new tools and technologies that will better the quality of life for patients.



SPOTLIGHT

THINKRBELLE INC

www.ThinkrBelle.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Intersection of HealthTech and BioPharma

ThinkrBelle Inc – Why We Started
Canada's HealthTech ecosystem is rich with innovation, yet many ideas stall before reaching patients. Pharmaceutical companies are complex, regulated, and risk-averse, while startups are nimble but under-resourced. Too often, promising technologies fail to address Pharma's immediate pain points in the patient journey—leaving life-changing solutions unrealized.

Founded by Orchid Jahanshahi, **ThinkrBelle®** exists to close this gap. We help founders navigate Pharma's buying process, align their tech with real-world needs, and keep human impact at the center.

Who We Are
Joining Orchid, ThinkrBelle is powered by highly experienced Pharma and Tech experts including: Sigrun Watson, Tracey Cauley, Marty Eustace, Susannah Howard, Jennifer Elia and Christy Cheung (alumni). These leaders are experts who have launched drugs, built digital platforms, scaled marketing campaigns, and led payer and employer strategies across Canada and globally. Collectively, they bring decades of expertise in commercialization, market access, insurance, omnichannel strategy, and patient-centered entrepreneurship. Together, they bridge HealthTech and Pharma with human-first innovation and flawless execution.

Our Approach
We act like "sherpas," connecting the dots across health verticals and guiding startups and Pharma with agility, efficiency, and responsible AI-powered tools. Our model blends advisory, commercialization, and distribution with a uniquely human touch. We specialize in patient-journey-driven solutions Pharma can trust, and we don't stop at strategy—we execute evidence-based, tech-enabled tactics with clear KPIs.

Our Products
- ThinkrSolve: For Pharma leaders—strategic advisory to evaluate and adopt AI-powered HealthTech.
- ThinkrSell: For startups—bite-sized services that connect them to the right Pharma stakeholders.
- ThinkrSight: For investors—due diligence, fractional talent, and de-risked investment strategies.

Our Impact
Patients are at the heart of everything we do. By accelerating HealthTech adoption, we help Canadians access faster diagnoses, better therapies, and supportive care. Startups benefit from shorter sales cycles and sustainable revenue, while Pharma gains credible partners delivering real-world value. Investors back stronger companies ready to scale—keeping Canadian talent vibrant at the earliest stages of innovation.

Our Momentum
In under 2 years, ThinkrBelle has built a reputation as a boutique Canadian advisory firm bridging HealthTech and Pharma. We've delivered measurable outcomes, forged valuable partnerships, and are scaling into a full commercialization platform to make Canada the launchpad where Pharma and HealthTech intersect.

"Orchid, You and your team at ThinkrBelle really help stretch the limits of my imagination and how you do that is by looking in places that I would not necessarily think of looking; and having the courage to challenge me in a positive way and that way I know that I will provide better value to the patients that I work so hard for. You really are like a Tinkerbell fairy. You sprinkle great ideas and great thinking for all people around you. Thank you!"

- Isabelle Emard, Brand Director, General Medicine GSK Canada

SPOTLIGHT

TORONTO INNOVATION ACCELERATION PARTNERS (TIAP)

Ontario's Life Sciences Venture Builders

www.tiap.ca

- Launch of **~70** new companies
- Raising of over **$1.1B** in private investment by portfolio companies
- Advancement of more than **100** novel made-in-Ontario innovations
- Creation of **1,000+** Ontario-based jobs
- **$50M** directly invested into Ontario life sciences companies.

"Together, we stand on the cusp of realizing an extraordinary opportunity, poised to unite our strengths and achieve unparalleled success in the life sciences domain — the time is now!"

- Parimal Nathwani, President & CEO, TIAP; Director, Life Sciences Ontario Board

Ontario is at the forefront of health research, consistently producing groundbreaking discoveries that not only save lives, but also hold immense commercial potential. To realize this potential, TIAP brings the province's top universities, hospitals and research institutes together with industry partners and investors to proactively identify the most exciting sparks of ground-breaking therapeutic, medical device and digital health/AI innovation — and provides the tools, resources, and know-how to transform this work into successful commercial ventures.

Approach

TIAP's critical commercialization capacity includes:

- A team of highly experienced business professionals and a deep network of seasoned advisors with the acumen to support:

  - Company formation, business plan development, technology in-licensing, R&D / technology advancement

- Building of leadership teams including recruitment of qualified C-suite management, boards, scientific experts and key opinion leaders
- Direct seed investment to bridge early funding gaps, along with matched and/or strategic follow-on financing from top-tier domestic and international life sciences investors.

Impact

- For investigators, innovators and entrepreneurs from Ontario's research institutions: TIAP provides a pathway to translate their work into new commercial ventures
- For investors: TIAP offers a robust pipeline of pre-validated, de-risked investment opportunities
- For industry partners: TIAP offers a pool of novel innovations based on world-leading research to help build their technology pipelines
- For governments: TIAP translates public investment in research into significant societal returns, enhancing Ontario's and Canada's health and economic security.

Next

TIAP is committed to continuing to work in close collaboration with our partners in academia, industry, the investment community and government to ensure Ontario reaches its full potential as a global leading life sciences hub.

SPOTLIGHT

TRAFEROX

https://traferox.com/

Number of employees:
50 employees

Headquarters:
Mississauga, Canada

Focus Areas:
Medical devices

TRAFEROX TECHNOLOGIES

Revolutionizing organ transplantation through research and collaboration with world-class clinicians

Lung transplant is a livesaving therapy for patients with end-stage lung disease. Despite long waitlists, only 20% of donated lungs are transplanted; the rest are discarded due to concerns about viability or logistical challenges imposed by the limit of preservation time on ice.

To alleviate these problems, the lung transplant surgeons at the Toronto General Hospital (TGH) pioneered the Toronto Technique for Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion (EVLP), a procedure where lungs from a deceased donor are perfused, ventilated and maintained at 37°C. EVLP enables a detailed assessment of the viability of donor lungs. The TGH team also demonstrated that transporting lungs at 10°C increases the maximum preservation period from six hours to more than 24 hours, allowing procurement of lungs across greater distances. Together, these advances have nearly doubled lung transplants at TGH, making it the world's largest lung transplant centre.

Traferox Technologies was founded in 2020 to deploy these life-saving clinical advances to the rest of the world. Traferox brings together seasoned executives, talented engineers and scientists and TGH's clinicians to design and manufacture medical devices that increase availability and improve outcomes of organ transplantation.

In less than two years, Traferox brought to market the TorEx Lung Perfusion System, which implements EVLP into an integrated and automated device. TorEx has been used to assess lungs from over 330 donors, leading to over 215 patients receiving lungs that would otherwise have been discarded.

Traferox has also developed the X°Port Lung Transport System, which transports and preserves donor lungs at 10°C. X°Port was initially designed for a multi-centre clinical trial led by TGH, but it quickly drew world-wide attention of transplant surgeons. It received FDA clearance in May 2025 and in just four months, Traferox captured 16% of the United States lung transplant market.

Traferox has 50 employees and recently opened a new 35,000 sq. ft. facility in Mississauga. As such it remains proudly a Canadian-owned company based in Ontario. Traferox is now partnering with world-leading transplant surgeons at TGH and other hospitals to improve the accessibility and outcomes of transplantation of other organs.

SPOTLIGHT

Inspired by patients. Driven by science.

www.ucbcanada.com

Headquarters:
Oakville, Canada

Number of Employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceutical / Biopharmaceutical

"Inspired by patients. Driven by science." is more than our tagline; it guides how we advance therapies and advocate for underrecognized diseases to be seen, diagnosed, and prioritized in Canada through awareness, education, and access acceleration."

-Rodrigo Reis, General Manager, UCB Canada

UCB CANADA INC.

Science with Purpose, Care with Impact

Inspired by patients and driven by science, UCB Canada is advancing earlier diagnosis, equitable access, and breakthrough therapies that improve the lives of Canadians living with chronic autoimmune, neurological, and rare diseases.

Every day, millions of Canadians living with severe autoimmune[1], neurological[2], and rare diseases[3] face delayed diagnoses, limited access to care, and unmet needs, compromising quality of life. At UCB Canada, this reality anchors our mission: to put patients at the centre of science, innovation, and policy, so care delivers lasting impact, transcending treatment.

Our approach is defined by equitable and early intervention for underrecognized conditions. *FASTRAX Canada*, a pioneering care model, is helping to cut the nine-year average delay[4,5] in diagnosing axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA). By linking specialty-trained physiotherapists with rheumatologists and expanding into equity-critical regions like Ottawa and Thunder Bay[6,7,8] , it bridges gaps for underserved and Indigenous communities. Results are coming in: 126 HCP engagements, 27 patients diagnosed.

In our commitment to transforming the lives of patients with chronic autoimmune, neurological, and rare diseases, we now have 8 medicines available in Canada. The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) has successfully concluded negotiations, helping to set a new industry benchmark for how quickly patients with generalized myasthenia gravis (gMG) can access life-changing therapies. This milestone represents renewed hope for rare disease communities in Canada.

Our impact is tangible: in 2024 alone, UCB provided personalized support to 11,000 Canadian patients via Patient Support Programs, educated 2,100 HCPs through learning activities, enrolled 6,000 Canadian participants in global clinical trials, and invested $210,000 in clinical funding to support patient associations advancing rare-disease awareness. Financially, we achieved a 26% rise in record sales and a 360% growth in R&D investment (vs 2023). Our Canadian footprint continues to grow; in Ontario alone, we are projecting 36% full-time employee growth from 2025-2026.

Looking ahead, UCB will continue to drive bold innovation in autoimmune, neurological, and rare diseases, delivering faster access, equitable diagnosis, and transformative therapies, ensuring all Canadians can access the treatments they need and deserve.

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SPOTLIGHT

University of Toronto Scarborough | Arts & Science Co-op

www.utsc.utoronto.ca/artscicoop

Year founded:
1964

Focus Areas:
Post-secondary

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH'S ARTS AND SCIENCE CO-OP

Harnessing Student Talent through Co-op to Drive Health-Care Innovation

U of T Scarborough's Arts and Science Co-op students bring fresh skills, adaptability, and empathy to research and health-care teams.

Spark

Canada's health-care sector faces mounting challenges: workforce shortages and an urgent demand for innovation. For many labs and health organizations, the barrier isn't just resources—it's finding the right people. That's where U of T Scarborough's Arts and Science Co-op Program steps in.

Approach

The Arts and Science Co-op Program is more than a hiring pipeline—it's a platform for mutual growth. Students take on 4, 8 or 12-month roles in research, data analysis, communications, and patient support, gaining hands-on skills. Employers gain support and fresh insights from motivated learners, while the program fosters thought leadership through resources like the EDI Employer Guidebook and quarterly LAUNCH networking events. This approach ensures employers can meet critical staffing needs while students build confidence to enter the workforce.

Impact

The impact is felt across healthcare and research organizations. "Our major successes lie in creating a mutually beneficial partnership between students and employers," says Raj Dam, Assistant Director, Partnerships and External Relations at Arts & Science Co-op.

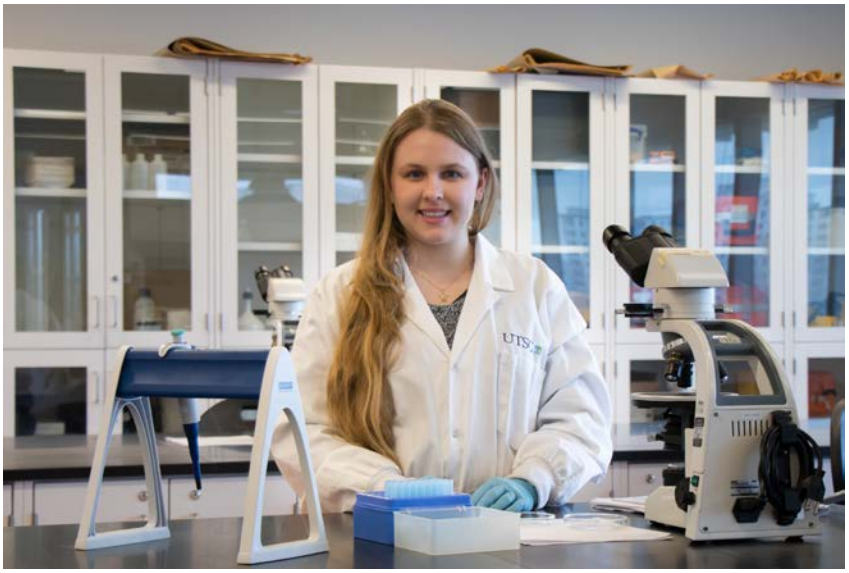
At Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, Dr. Jennifer Crosbie's lab has hired multiple co-op students over the past six years. "Within a few weeks, they gain great confidence in navigating databases, contributing to discussions and managing their own deliverables," says Dr. Crosbie.

Momentum

Over the years, the Arts and Science Co-op Program has built strong partnerships with some of Toronto's leading healthcare and pharmaceutical organizations, including, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Sanofi. Many placements evolve into long-term roles, creating a steady pipeline of trained professionals for the health-care sector.

Next

With the upcoming launch of the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH) in 2026, the program is poised to expand placement opportunities in high-demand health-care fields. By continuing to connect employers with diverse, motivated talent, U of T Scarborough's Arts and Science Co-op Program is helping build the next generation of health-care leaders.



SPOTLIGHT

UHN KITE Research Institute

www.kite-uhn.com

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
101-500

Focus Areas:
Medical research

"It's an honor to be recognized for our impact through the Forbes' Accessibility 100 alongside other prestigious institutions."

- Milos R. Popovic, KITE Director

UHN'S KITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

KITE earns spot on Forbes' Accessibility 100 list

The recognition highlights the Institute's leadership in accessibility research and its impact on inclusive innovation.

The list features the best organizations worldwide working in accessibility and disability, alongside notable groups such as Apple, Nike, and Google.

"KITE's hundreds of scientists and trainees have devoted themselves to improving accessibility through their research and innovations," said KITE Director Milos R. Popovic. "It's an honour to be recognized for our impact through the Forbes' Accessibility 100 alongside other prestigious institutions."

This is the first year Forbes has created an Accessibility 100 list. It announced who made the list on June 17 during a live panel at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity.

"[The groups on this list] are revolutionizing how people get around, learn, communicate, work, play sports, travel, and so much more," said Alan Schwarz, Forbes Assistant Managing Editor. "Their impact on people's lives is monumental – and will only be getting more so soon."

To determine who to include, Forbes conducted more than 400 interviews and sought feedback from an expert advisory board. "Emphasis was placed on breadth of true impact across the widest landscape," Forbes said in an article about the new list. It described KITE as a place where products are "put through the wringer by the people they're actually designed for (as well as more than 200 scientists and graduate students)."

KITE is one of only six Canadian organizations on the list. The others from Canada are AccessNow, Trexo Robotics, Humanware, Fable and All Access Life.

In an accompanying feature story, Forbes highlighted "the curb-cut effect," where changes meant to help disabled people, such as curb cuts or inventions like electric toothbrushes, end up being helpful to people without disabilities as well. Several prominent companies are promoting that kind of universal design on the Accessible 100 list, including Procter & Gamble and Apple.

It also shared the business potential in this area. "Accessibility has been an ignored space from investment capital," Paul Kent, managing partner of the Disabled Life Alliance, said in the piece. "It's been thought of as a small market, which is ridiculous. There's a massive return associated with this."

SPOTLIGHT

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS

Vertex is a global biotechnology company that invests in scientific innovation to create transformative medicines for people with serious diseases.

www.vrtx.ca/en-ca

Year founded:
1989

Number of employees:
+40 employees

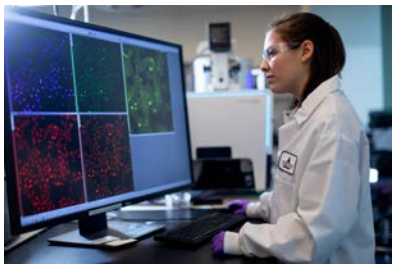
Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada | Global: Boston, MA

Focus Areas:
Pharmaceuticals

"At Vertex, our commitment extends beyond groundbreaking research and innovative treatments and is deeply rooted in the patients we serve. To the communities championing hope, to the policymakers shaping the future, and to the healthcare professionals on the front line, we would like to express our deepest gratitude."

- Michael Siauw, General Manager, Vertex Canada

Canada Public Affairs team hosting the 2025 Vertex BIO Innovation Event



Fundamentally, we are a disease-first company. We select diseases in which we understand and can address causal human biology, with validated targets and biomarkers that translate from bench to bedside. We believe this exponentially increases our chance of developing transformative medicines.

Vertex's Research and Development (R&D) strategy is unique and differentiates us in the industry. We invest the majority of our operating expenses in R&D as we believe that the true value of our industry lies in scientific innovation. This commitment is reflected in our company's structure, where 3 out of 5 employees are dedicated to R&D. We are modality agnostic. We start by identifying the problem we are trying to solve in a particular disease and then we choose the best tool or tools for the job – be it small molecule, cell therapy, mRNA, gene editing, etc.

The same principles that guide and drive our innovation — fearlessness, diversity, collaboration and commitment to patients — fuel our efforts to serve our patient communities, operate responsibly and be a good corporate citizen. We maximize community impact through philanthropy and volunteerism to make a difference in the communities in which we live and work.

Vertex's major successes include:

- Five approved medicines in Canada for cystic fibrosis, which have transformed treatment of the disease. Not only have our cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) modulator therapies helped individuals manage their condition, Cystic Fibrosis Canada's 2022 Annual Report also shows that our CFTR modulator therapies have led to reductions in hospital stays and fewer lung transplants, benefiting the Canadian healthcare system at large. Our newest CFTR modulator PrALYFTREK™ (vanzacaftor/tezacaftor/deutivacaftor) was approved by Health Canada in July 2025.
- Approval of Canada's first-ever CRISPR-based gene-editing therapy. In September 2024, Health Canada granted Marketing Authorization for PrCASGEVY® (exagamglogene autotemcel), an autologous genome-edited hematopoietic stem cell-based therapy, for the treatment of patients 12 years of age and older with sickle cell disease (SCD) with recurrent vaso-occlusive crises (VOCs) or transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia (TDT). Vertex is currently engaged in negotiations with the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) to help secure reimbursement for eligible patients.
- The inaugural Vertex BIO Innovation Event, hosted in partnership with the Consulate General of Canada in Boston, was held in Boston at Vertex's Jeffrey Leiden Center for Cell and Genetic Therapies during the 2025 BIO Conference. Canadian leaders in health, innovation, and economic development heard from Vertex leadership and connected over our shared commitment to advancing transformative science to improve the health of patients living with serious diseases. Vertex was proud to showcase its unique approach to research and development and growing clinical trial footprint across Canada.

Vertex has a robust clinical pipeline of potentially transformative therapies for multiple other serious diseases, including the first new class of acute pain medicine in decades. We're now in the clinic in more than 10 disease areas, including mid- or late- stage trials in type 1 diabetes, pain, IgA Nephropathy (IgAN) and APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD). Nearly all of our programs represent a first-in-class or best-in-class opportunity and, taken together, have the potential to help millions of patients suffering from these diseases.

SPOTLIGHT

VESSL PROSTHETICS

The future of prosthetics is adaptive

Vessl's auto-adjusting socket empowers amputees with comfort, resilience, and confidence

www.vesslpro.com

Headquarters:
London, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Prostheses innovation/Adjustable socket

"This stage is full of promise. Our goals and missions are strengthened by the support from our investors, mentors, peers and the expert team at the forefront of design. As we grow we will continue to lead with our overarching mission of solving the unique challenges faced by the amputee population."

- Sydney Robinson, Co-founder

Sydney Robinson and Oleksiy Zaika, Co-Founders of Vessl Prosthetics, are the brains behind a-first-of-its-kind auto-adjusting socket system for prostheses, aimed at providing a life of comfort for amputees. The idea was inspired when the co-founders were shadowing a doctor with expertise in diabetes, one of the leading causes for leg amputation. Aware of the everyday struggles that amputees often face with uncomfortable static sockets that don't adjust well, Vessl pioneered a passive, auto-adjusting socket system which has a shock-absorbing mechanical discat the bottom that helps maintain a set level of tension on a shrinking leg.

Most socket technologies, though counterintuitive, are used by 90% of the US market and 95% of the Canadian market. The latest development before Vessl's innovation was the incorporation of a twist dial to the prostheses to allow for amputees to make changes on their own. However, for users with poor dexterity, the dial is another challenge to be tackled. Vessl's technology aims to address these issues. Through a Medical Innovation Fellowship, the team connected with TechAlliance, a podium of record for technology and innovation in Southwestern Ontario. What started as assistance for go-to-market strategies and general startup advice is now a successful Ontario medtech venture that has closed its first funding round, securing an oversubscribed pre-seed. That's not all – recognizing the impact of their innovation and significant growth since 2021, the company also received $500,000 through Ontario Centre of Innovation's Life Sciences Innovation Fund. Launching their revolutionary Kinn™ prosthetic system, their recent funding rounds will unlock revenue generation across four key sales channels in the US and help them through FDA registration and clinical research.

What's next for Vessl? As they continue implementing products and services that empower amputees, Vessl is focused on increasing comfort, independence and confidence for every user, and these milestones are just the beginning for this medtech company.

Vessl Co-Founders, Sydney Robinson and Oleksiy Zaika, holding the auto-adjusting prosthetic

SPOTLIGHT

VIBRAINT INC

Giving people back their natural mobility

www.vibraint.ai

Headquarters: Richmond Hill, ON, Canada

Number of employees: 0-50

Focus Areas: Rehabilitation Medical Devices

"I bet on this"

-Prof. Sean Dukelow, University of Calgary
Cumming School of Medicine,
Lead of CanStroke Recovery Trials Platform

VIBRAINT Inc. is a proudly Ontarian startup that has developed a revolutionary brain-controlled rehabilitation robot to help millions paralyzed individuals worldwide in regaining mobility.

No less than one in six people are affected by stroke - this amounts to 12 million cases every year. Annually over 500,000 have spinal cord injuries. At the same time, there are no solutions on the market to treat severe paralysis. As a result, at least 120 million worldwide live paralyzed, 6 million of them - in Canada and the USA.

VIBRAINT develops a line of medical device neurotechnology products aimed at restoring mobility in individuals with severe paralysis. Rehabilitation institutions will get these state-of-the-art rehabilitation tools for free, with zero upfront cost, and pay by use.

During rehabilitation training, patients are immersed in a life-like physical and virtual game environment, where they perform activities of daily living. The non-invasive brain-computer interface headset monitors the patient's brain waves to detect the intention to move the paralyzed arm, and then sends a command to the robot to physically carry out the intended motion. At the same time, the patient observes in VR that their arm is moving according to their will. This promotes the natural process of neuroplasticity, helping the brain rewire and regain motor control.

After pilots in stroke and spinal cord injured patients, the regulatory clinical study funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research and organized by the CanStroke Recovery Trials platform is scheduled for completion mid-2026, to allow regulatory submissions to Health Canada and the USA FDA.

Treatment with VIBRAINT RehUp can be covered in the U.S. under several Medicare CPT codes, as well as for different categories of patients in various Canadian provinces.

VIBRAINT - a receiver of numerous international accolades is moving steadily towards regulatory approvals and marketing the first product in Canada and the US in 2027.

SPOTLIGHT

VIVE CROP PROTECTION

Vive: Crop Protection Without Compromise

www.vivecrop.com

Headquarters: Mississauga, Canada

Number of employees: 51-100

Focus Areas: AgTech

"Our aspiration is to create a Canadian AgTech unicorn, bringing global innovations to Canadian farmers and Canadian innovations to the world. We have an incredible opportunity to have a Vive solution on every acre of cropland in the world. We're building a 100-year company that will last, and grow, and have a positive impact on the world for generations to come."

- Dr. Darren Anderson, CEO

Vive was founded in 2006 by Dr. Darren Anderson (CEO) and Dr. Jordan Dinglasan (VP, Research & IP). Dr. Dinglasan invented Allosperse, the nanotechnology that was the basis for our foray into agriculture in 2010.

Canada's critical agrifood sector (7% of GDP, 1 in 9 jobs) faces threats from tariffs, climate change, and a regulatory system that stifles innovation. There is an urgent need to invest in agricultural innovation to safeguard our domestic food supply, which is where Vive comes in.

Allosperse addresses many challenges faced by farmers: increasing costs; product and water overuse; product instability; and environmental concerns. Our nanotechnology-based, bio-enabled products reduce water usage, GHG emissions, and synthetic chemicals, while enhancing soil health, crop yield, and land use efficiency.

Our technology portfolio and modular development process provide Vive with an unlimited toolbox to develop new products. We can commercialize IP in four years for $1M per product, whereas competitors average 13 years and over $400M from discovery to commercialization.

We have seven branded products in the US and one in Canada, and out-licensing partnerships to supply our nanotechnology to other agrichemicals manufacturers. Other partnerships include those with leading biological ingredient suppliers to enable our goal of having a 50% bio-enabled pipeline by 2034.

In July 2023, Vive was selected as the anchor AgTech firm in ISED's inaugural Global Hypergrowth Project. Vive has won several awards, including Thrive Top 50 AgTech/FoodTech; Foresight Canada Top 50; Deloitte Technology Fast 50, Fast 500 and Green 15; and the Globe and Mail's Canada's Top Growing Companies.

Vive products have protected a cumulative 6.9M acres in the last five years, and our five-year CAGR in sell-through acres is 49%.

Whether in the field or in the lab, Vive's employees and products are always working hard.

SPOTLIGHT

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Advancing Life Sciences from Discovery to Global Impact

Western University unites research excellence, entrepreneurial support, and talent development across five faculties to tackle today's most urgent health challenges.

www.uwo.ca

Headquarters: London, Canada

Number of employees: 500 and above

Focus Areas: Research and Talent Development

"Life sciences research at Western is powered by collaboration. By bringing together researchers, trainees and innovators across multiple disciplines, we are catalyzing important new opportunities for breakthroughs that promise to have impact in Ontario and around the world."—Penny Pexman, PhD Vice-President (Research), Western University

Spark

Around the world, health systems face mounting pressures from chronic disease, infectious threats, aging populations, and mental health crises. Western recognized that solving these challenges demands more than siloed research—it requires a coordinated, cross-faculty effort that spans discovery, clinical application, and commercialization.

Approach

With 1,400+ faculty members and nearly 15,000 undergraduate and 2,500+ graduate students in life sciences programs, Western draws on the strengths of its full academic community—from medicine, health, and science to engineering, social science, arts, education, business, and law—along with contributions from its affiliated university colleges, Huron and King's. This breadth of expertise fuels cross-disciplinary research and innovation in the life sciences.

Annual research funding exceeding $283 million supports world-class work in precision medicine, regenerative health, medical devices, AI-enabled diagnostics, and health systems innovation.

Western is also home to BioNext, a life sciences incubation program offering specialized lab space, mentorship, and commercialization resources for early-stage companies. This ecosystem connects student and faculty innovators with the resources to move from concept to market.

Impact

Western's research and talent development fuel Canada's life sciences engine. Breakthroughs in our labs translate into new treatments, devices, diagnostics, and care models that improve health outcomes. Through extensive co-op, internship, and clinical placement programs, graduates leave Western ready to lead in health care, biotech, medtech, and policy. These industry-ready professionals—combined with research-driven partnerships—are accelerating growth across the regional and national life sciences sector and strengthening Canada's position in the global innovation economy.

Momentum

Western is building on its strengths to accelerate life sciences research, innovation, and workforce development. Recent progress includes:

- **Scaling interdisciplinary research teams** that connect science, engineering, health, and policy expertise to address complex health challenges from multiple angles. Western's collaborative research institutes bring together clinicians, scientists, engineers, and policy experts to tackle pressing issues — from neurological disease and musculoskeletal disorders to planetary health and space medicine. These integrated teams accelerate discovery, enable cross-sector innovation, and inform real-world decision-making in both healthcare and environmental systems.
- **Expanding BioNext's incubation capacity within Western Research Parks,** giving early-stage companies access to specialized lab space, mentorship, and commercialization resources alongside a network of high-growth tech and life sciences tenants.
- **Launching new experiential learning streams** that place students in high-demand roles, ensuring a steady pipeline of industry-ready talent.
- **Advancing priority research areas** – such as cancer, neuroscience, infectious disease, musculoskeletal health, and medical imaging – generating breakthrough discoveries and attracting competitive research investment.
- **Strengthening national and international collaborations** that extend Western's impact beyond campus and connect its expertise to global health innovation networks.

Together, these achievements are positioning Western as a catalyst for discovery, commercialization, and skilled workforce growth in Canada's life sciences sector.

Next

Western is building the next generation of health innovation infrastructure—enhancing biomanufacturing capabilities, advancing AI-driven health research, and deepening collaborations across disciplines to address tomorrow's health challenges. The vision: "made-in-Canada" solutions with global reach.

SPOTLIGHT

XATOMS

Using quantum chemistry to clean world's water

Xatoms is pioneering photocatalysts that transform polluted water into a source of hope worldwide

www.xatoms.com/home

Headquarters:
Toronto, Canada

Number of employees:
0-50

Focus Areas:
Cleantech/Deeptech

"At Xatoms, we are inspired to push the boundaries of science to reimagine the future of clean water. Starting with Canada's challenges and scaling to global problems, we harness deep tech at the intersection of life sciences and material science to create accessible, breakthrough solutions that protect human health and our planet. Founded in Ontario, we are proud to grow with Canada's innovation community as we build a greener, healthier, and more sustainable world."

- Diana Virgovicova, CEO

Canada is where deeptech happens, and Xatoms lies within the cluster of these advanced material science companies that are tackling some of the world's biggest problems. Co-Founded by Diana Virgovicova (Chief Executive Officer), Shirley Zhong (Chief Operating Officer), and Kerem Topal Ismail Oglou (Chief Technology Officer), this quantum-chemistry-AI-driven startup aims to solve the globe's challenge of polluted water by designing customizable photocatalysts. Inspired by Virgovicova's trip to Mumbai in her early childhood days where she saw women washing their clothes in polluted water, the Co-Founder knew that she had to find a feasible, affordable, and accessible solution to provide clean water for everyone, all around the world.

The first of its kind, at the heart of Xatoms' technology is a quantum chemistry discovery engine that uses molecular simulations to identify promising materials faster, complemented by AI to optimize and scale discoveries. To date, the team has developed eight photocatalysts made for different use cases, including air and water purification. In North America, the immediate demand lies specifically in water purification as complex pharmaceutical contaminants are harder to degrade. However, with goals this ambitious, the team at Xatoms' is eager to not only explore various use cases but also test the waters in terms of the scope of their technology across different industries. With initial success in neutralizing heavy metals in mining wastewater using their photocatalyst, Xatoms is looking at real-world applications in the next two to five years through industrial mining pilot projects and community projects that aim at removing impurities from water in developing nations.

Xatoms' momentum is well-recognized by the Canadian tech landscape. With a significant win of $500,000 in funding at StartupFest, signing an early-investment deal with Quantacet, a quantam technology fund, being one of TechAlliance's i.d.e.a. Fund recipients and Virgovicova's feature in Forbes 30 Under 30, Xatoms recently closed a $3M funding round further proving that deep tech success stories are emerging from Canada's vibrant innovation community.

SPOTLIGHT

www.lifesciencesontario.ca

LIFE SCIENCES ONTARIO

"Diversity of Members, Unity of Voice"

Life Sciences Ontario is a member-funded, not-for-profit organization with a legacy of more than 30 years advancing the success of Ontario's life sciences sector. From its beginnings, LSO has always been more than an industry association—it is a community-based organization representing the full breadth of Ontario's life sciences ecosystem, including academia, research hospitals, start-ups, multinationals, and service providers. Through advocacy, message amplification, and connectivity, LSO works to build a stronger, more cohesive community in Ontario and beyond.

Established in 1989 as the Toronto Biotechnology Initiative (TBI), the organization gave the sector its first united voice. TBI quickly became a vocal advocate, opposing sweeping regulations in favor of a risk-based approach that balanced public safety with R&D and economic growth. Beyond advocacy, TBI expanded into networking breakfasts, mentorship programs, and annual awards, steadily broadening its membership beyond the Greater Toronto Area; a tradition that continues today, serving as a conduit of connectivity across the sector. In March 2007, TBI was renamed The Biotechnology Initiative, and by June 2010 it evolved into Life Sciences Ontario, embracing a provincial mandate that included pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, agritech, biochemicals, and service providers.

LSO has built partnerships with organizations across Ontario and beyond to champion the sector through joint initiatives for sector advancement: ensuring access to capital, strengthening support for SMEs, encouraging the adoption of innovation across health systems, expanding access to wet lab space, attracting and retaining top talent and many more critical areas of focus.

At the national level, LSO is a part of the National Biotech Accord, which calls on leaders from all orders of government, industry, academia, and stakeholders across Canada to collaborate to strengthen and grow the life sciences enterprise. Jason Field, President and CEO of Life Sciences Ontario chaired the Life Sciences Council that served as an important step in phase two of Ontario's Life Sciences Strategy.

Beyond this, LSO also collaborate cross-provincially with other members of the accord to create new opportunities by facilitating connections, sharing resources, and expanding access to funding and markets. In today's economic climate, working across provincial borders is more important than ever, and these partnerships ensure that Ontario's strengths contribute to a stronger, more integrated national life sciences ecosystem.

The purpose of this magazine is to showcase the diverse and vibrant stories within our ecosystem. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we've enjoyed bringing them together.

Read more about us at www.lifesciencesontario.ca

SPOTLIGHT

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LSO
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To learn more about LSO, visit:
www.lifesciencesontario.ca
admin@lifesciencesontario.ca
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