

Biotechnology Update

September 20, 2007



As the City of Oakland does not yet have a real biotechnology industry in place, Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI) is interested in serving as a catalyst and leader for Biotech in Oakland. Its success, established by its investigative staff, is an attraction for biotech partners.

CHORI also has sophisticated biomedical research facilities, a technology transfer office with a highly successful technology transfer program, an entrepreneurial spirit, a responsive administrative structure, and a formal relationship with University of California Berkeley.

CHORI Ventures was recently established to support biotech development as applied to human illness. This program supports tech transfer projects that have potential for a major return on investment.

Strategies

- Continue to facilitate meetings between scientists, venture capitalists, and developers to seed one or two wet-lab facilities or other office projects in Oakland that could accommodate biotech or green tech (related) companies.
- Work with the City to continue to articulate that biotechnology represents a significant economic development opportunity for the City and that the City stands ready to facilitate and encourage such developments.

Actions to be taken immediately

- CHORI leadership to convene additional biotech stakeholders with Mayor Dellums.
- CHORI, Chamber, and City to develop map of "opportunity sites" where biotech and related green tech developments could take place in the city.