BIOSPHERE

UTAH'S LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY MAGAZINE

2025

UTAH'S ISOTOPIA

Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

WELCOME **JEFFERSON MOSS**

The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity welcomes Jefferson Moss as its new executive director. With a background as an entrepreneur, business owner, higher education leader, and state legislator, Moss brings a unique blend of public and private sector experience to the table. He will continue advancing innovation and economic development statewide — both through his leadership at GOEO and ongoing efforts with the Utah System of Higher Education.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2025 *Biosphere Magazine*—an annual BioUtah publication showcasing Utah's life sciences community. Utah remains a leading force in the nation's life sciences industry, so it's no surprise that discovery, startups, and growth find fertile ground in the state.

Our vibrant ecosystem and rich history of innovation begs the question, what's new? In this year's *Biosphere*, we answer that query with a cover story on Nusano, a company on pace to make Salt Lake City the radioisotope capital of the world. Similarly, neurotechnology companies, like BIOS and Blackrock Neurotech, are revolutionizing the way we think about prosthetics and restoring function to those with severe disabilities. Other Utah companies are pioneering solutions to better diagnose neurodegeneration, treat debilitating spinal disease, and support high-tech cardiac catheterization.

At the same time, we spotlight foundational companies, such as Varex Imaging, that have put down strong roots in Utah and that continue to produce next-gen medical technologies.

From Logan in the north to Salt Lake City and St. George in the south, Utah's life sciences companies are on the cutting edge. It's very much a team effort with state government, academia, and the private sector advancing together initiatives to fund R&D, attract capital, and build a solid workforce pipeline.

It's impossible within the confines of this magazine to detail all that's new with us, but there's enough in the pages that follow to paint a picture of the hope we bring to patients the world over. Enjoy the read!

Sincerely,

Mark Paul

Chair, Board of Directors, BioUtah
Executive Director, Center for Medical Innovation, University of Utah

BIOUTAH

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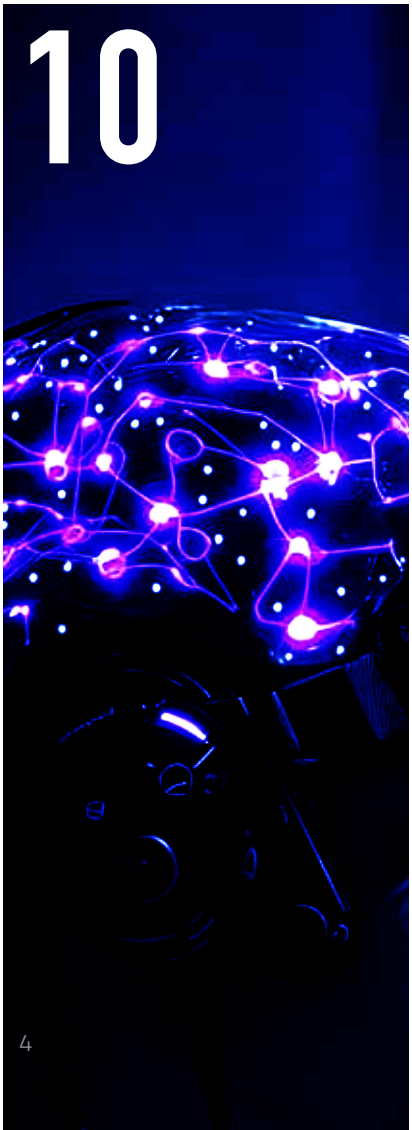

THE NUCLEUS INSTITUTE

Turning innovation into action

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LETTER FROM UTAH'S GOVERNOR

Dear Reader,

Utah has once again been ranked No. 1 by *U.S. News & World Report* for the best business climate in the country. This recognition affirms the state's rich tradition of strategic governance, collaboration, and entrepreneurship.

Through the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, we identify key industries that will continue to power the state's culture of innovation, create jobs, and grow the economy. Utah's life sciences sector is high on that list.

We work closely with BioUtah, the state's trade association for life sciences, to advance the industry's strengths in medical device manufacturing, diagnostics, and drug development. In addition, state and local initiatives help spawn new startups and drive expansion.

Utah is one of the nation's fastest-growing bioscience hubs dedicated to discovering novel treatments and cures for some of our most challenging diseases.

As Governor, I'm proud to serve a state that's rapidly becoming a national leader in bioscience, driven by a shared commitment to advancing lifesaving research and discovering novel treatments for some of our most challenging medical conditions.

Utah is truly a remarkable place to live, work, and raise a family. And after 180 years, we're not done dreaming. Join us, and be a part of what we are building in the beehive state.

Sincerely,

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

THE Nucleus INSTITUTE

TURNING INNOVATION INTO ACTION

By establishing the Nucleus Institute, the State of Utah consolidates existing key resources and creates new resources in support of innovation.

The Nucleus Institute is Utah's bold new engine for driving innovation, collaboration, and commercialization statewide. This one-of-a-kind organization brings together higher education, government, industry, and capital to tackle Utah's most pressing challenges and build the infrastructure for a dynamic and symbiotic innovation economy.

Jefferson Moss
Executive Director
Nucleus Institute & Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

Managing Director
Utah Innovation Fund

The Nucleus Institute serves as a hub for convergence—strategically aligning industry sectors to accelerate the development of novel technologies and support emerging startups, with life sciences as one of its core focus areas.

Conceptual rendering of The Point, home of the Nucleus Institute

In partnership with the Utah System of Higher Education, the Nucleus Institute works in tandem with all 16 of Utah's higher education institutions to support commercialization and workforce development. "The Nucleus Institute plays a critical role in driving Utah's innovation economy," said Jefferson Moss, executive director of the Nucleus Institute and the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO). "It helps ensure that Utah continues to be a vibrant economy for the future, particularly in supporting our ecosystem."

The Nucleus Institute houses three cornerstone programs: Nucleus Grow (formerly Utah Innovation Center), the Utah Innovation Fund, and the Utah Policy Innovation Lab. Each program supports Utah's long-term innovation strategy, filling critical gaps in the state's ecosystem.

Nucleus Grow transitioned from GOEO to the Nucleus Institute in the summer of 2025. The center remains Utah's primary resource for accessing non-dilutive federal funding, including Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants, otherwise known as SBIR/STTR grants. It continues to serve as a vital resource for companies and researchers seeking non-dilutive and other alternative funding sources. The center will maintain its team, services, and statewide impact, but is now bolstered by the Nucleus Institute's expanded capacity and strategic partnerships.

The Utah Innovation Fund is the state's $40 million pre-seed investment vehicle, addressing crucial capital gaps for early-stage technologies. The fund invests in deep tech sectors such as life sciences, energy, aerospace, cybersecurity, and AI. To date, 70 percent of the fund's investments have supported life sciences companies. Investments range from $100,000 to $250,000. Additionally, grants in the range of $5,000 to $50,000 are also available. To qualify, companies must have a material connection to a Utah higher education institution. This unique model reflects the state's broader commitment to turning promising research into real-world solutions, market value, and job creation.

The Utah Policy Innovation Lab applies a research-driven approach to regulatory reform and policymaking, helping shape an environment where innovation can thrive. Its work ensures that entrepreneurs benefit from evidence-based policies that reduce barriers to entry and attract innovative companies to Utah.

nucleus^

The launch of the Nucleus Institute marks a significant evolution in Utah's innovation economy. It reflects the state's vision to lead nationally in research, commercialization, talent development, and inclusive economic growth. Utah's governor, legislators, and business leaders are taking a proactive approach to building a future-ready innovation infrastructure—ensuring access to opportunity in every corner of the state. By unifying public and private resources under one agile entity, the Nucleus Institute combines the stability of public institutions with the speed of private enterprise.

In addition to these cornerstone programs, the Nucleus Institute is focused on connecting students with industry through high-impact projects. It partners with corporations to identify internal challenges in need of answers. Student teams are brought in to work alongside these companies, developing solutions through hands-on experience. These high-impact projects provide students with in-depth, real-world exposure that prepares them to succeed in the future workforce.

The Nucleus Institute will be headquartered in Convergence Hall, the centerpiece of Utah's emerging Innovation District at The Point. The Point is an innovation campus located in Draper, Utah. It will serve as a physical space where academia, government, and industry come together. Convergence Hall will fuel research and development, facilitate startup incubation, connect students to industry, and catalyze partnerships.

Through coordinated investment, targeted programming, and an ecosystem-wide approach, Utah's Nucleus Institute is poised to elevate the state's innovation capacity for decades to come. The life sciences industry is a key driver of innovation and will be an important partner and focus in the efforts of the Nucleus Institute.

Conceptual rendering of The Point, home of the Nucleus Institute

THE FUTURE OF NEUROTECH IS NOW...

...AND UTAH IS LEADING THE WAY

Anyone attending early screenings of *The Empire Strikes Back* in the spring of 1980 experienced the collective, audible gasp of moviegoers at the sheer disbelief that the villainous Darth Vader and the heroic Luke Skywalker might actually be related. Second only to the drama of such familial relationships was the hope that Skywalker's bionic hand might one day be plausible.

Less than a decade after the film's release, Utah would serve as the backdrop to make such technology possible in 1989, University of Utah professor Richard Normann invented the *Utah Array,* the first commercially viable intracortical microelectrode array capable of recording and stimulating individual neurons. This breakthrough technology has become the most widely used research-grade neural interface in the world, validated in over 20,000 peer-reviewed

publications and deployed in more than 1,000 laboratories worldwide.

The *Utah Array* lies at the core of two Utah companies providing cutting-edge innovation in neurotechnology commercialization, quickly turning the state into a center of excellence for neurotechnological advances.

Blackrock Neurotech

Blackrock Neurotech is one of Utah's most globally recognized life sciences companies, developing implantable brain-computer interface (BCI) systems that restore function, communication, and independence for people affected by paralysis, motor impairment, and neurological injury.

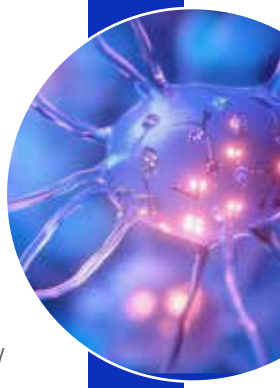
Founded in 2008 by University of Utah professor Florian Solzbacher and entrepreneur Marcus Gerhardt, Blackrock Neurotech has created a complete BCI ecosystem, including implantable electrode arrays, signal acquisition hardware, processing software, and external control systems—all designed to work together as a clinically viable platform.

Clinical Achievements and Patient Impact

Since the first human implantation of a *Utah Array* in 2004, participants have used the company's technology to:

- Operate advanced neuroprosthetics with multiple degrees of freedom and restored sensory perception via bidirectional stimulation.
- Achieve high-accuracy, high-speed computer control, enabling text composition at rates approaching able-bodied typing speeds.
- Restore communication function for those who have lost it, allowing a man with ALS to speak with his daughter for the first time.
- Perform functional tasks that increase independence, such as feeding themselves, manipulating objects, or controlling assistive technologies directly through neural intent.

Nathan Copeland, a pioneering BCI user, has lived with his BCI for over 10 years—the longest chronic human implantation on record. He has used the technology to control a robotic arm with fine motor precision and to experience a restored sense of touch through direct cortical stimulation.



From the Lab to Global Commercialization

In 2021, the FDA granted breakthrough device designation to Blackrock Neurotech's clinical BCI platform, recognizing its potential to significantly improve the quality of life for individuals with severe physical disabilities. This designation streamlines the regulatory pathway for devices with clear therapeutic benefit and positions the company to be among the first to deliver an implantable BCI for home use.

In 2024, Blackrock Neurotech secured $200 million in strategic funding to accelerate these efforts, expand its clinical programs, and prepare for broader market introduction.

While Blackrock Neurotech's collaborations span the globe, its operations remain firmly rooted in Salt Lake City. The company's headquarters includes cleanrooms for precision microfabrication, advanced electronics testing facilities, and dedicated spaces for neural data analysis and device assembly. Utah's talent pool, including engineers, neuroscientists, data scientists, and medical device specialists, has been instrumental in enabling Blackrock Neurotech to iterate quickly from concept to clinical use. The company also maintains strong ties to the state's academic institutions, partnering on research projects, offering student internships, and contributing to workforce development in the life sciences and neurotechnology fields.

The minuscule Utah Array.

BIOS
Biologic Input Output Systems

In the U.S., approximately 1.6 million individuals suffer from limb loss. Many individuals who have lost a limb experience chronic pain and depression. Current prostheses are cumbersome, and nearly half of amputees stop using them.

Biologic Input Output Systems, a Utah-based neurotechnology company, is using its universal neural interface to connect directly to the peripheral nervous system, enabling people with limb loss to control their prosthesis through thought and be able to experience a sense of touch again.

BIOS doesn't build the prosthesis. Rather, the company builds the AI-powered interface that makes the prosthesis intelligent. This breakthrough technology creates seamless, two-way communication between the brain and the digital world, restoring natural control, sensation, and connection.

Through a collaboration with the University of Utah's NeuroRobotics Lab, the BIOS neural interface powers the *LUKE Arm*, one of the most advanced bionic limbs ever developed. As the eponymous equivalent of the bionic referenced earlier, the arm allows users to grasp objects, sense pressure, and even feel texture by simply thinking it, which recently made it possible for an amputee patient to feel his partner's touch for the first time since his amputation.

"We're replacing the lost function of the hand," said BIOS' chief scientist, Jacob George, Ph.D. "With extended use, we hope this technology can also restore the full range of physical and emotional experiences enabled by our hands."

In 2024, the FDA granted BIOS breakthrough device designation and admitted the company into the selective FDA Total Product Lifecycle Advisory Program. This recognition accelerates the path to market for technologies with the potential to transform lives.

Jacob George, Ph.D., testing the BIOS technology. (Photo by Dave Titensor, University of Utah.)

In partnership with the University of Utah, BIOS is conducting a clinical study where participants use the *LUKE Arm* in daily life, cooking meals, typing messages, and, most meaningfully, reconnecting with loved ones through the return of touch.

Building a Neurotech Hub

Companies such as Blackrock Neurotech and BIOS reinforce Utah's position as a hub for neurotechnology innovation and commercialization. As the field of brain–computer interfaces advances toward real-world deployment, Utah is positioned at the forefront of making science fiction a reality.

Be prepared, as the next collective audible gasp will occur as people see the implementation of these neurotechnologies.

Photo of clinical trial participant using the LUKE Arm. (Photo from John and Marcia Price College of Engineering website.)

UTAH'S ISOTOPIA

NUSANO'S MAGNETIC ATTRACTION

NUSANO

Supply chains should not determine a patient's treatment options. Nusano, an innovative Utah company, is changing things for the better.

Giving Patients Hope

Nusano is a medical technology company that creates radioisotopes—tiny tracers used to target and eliminate cancer cells with precision, without significant negative impact to the surrounding healthy tissue. The radioisotopes cause breaks in the cancer cells' DNA, inhibiting their ability to replicate. However, despite the countless patient lives that could benefit from such new therapeutic approaches, and the multi-billion-dollar market opportunity for new oncology drugs, developments in this promising field risk being constrained by a lack of radioisotope production capacity.

Enter Nusano. The company's groundbreaking patented technologies and methods are poised to transform radioisotope production and usher in an exciting new era in cancer care. The company's state-of-the-art facility in West Valley City, Utah, will produce radioisotopes quickly, efficiently, and affordably. This will make desperately needed resources available to healthcare providers around the world while offering those with life-threatening diseases hope for a healthier tomorrow.

"In the healthcare ecosystem, Nusano supplies medical radioisotopes to drug makers, hospitals, and cancer clinics," said Chris Lowe, CEO of Nusano. "With a reliable supply of radioisotopes, these teams can then formulate treatments and next-generation pharmaceuticals needed to advance the fight against cancer."

Nusano combines time-proven technology from world-class universities and research centers with the company's patented particle acceleration technology. The result is the first significant advancement in radioisotope production in decades—a platform that's safer and more efficient than existing methods, and capable of the simultaneous manufacturing of multiple radioisotopes needed for advanced pharmaceuticals, treatments and procedures.

Unique Production Platform

What sets Nusano apart is the power and flexibility of its proprietary radioisotope production platform. Radioisotopes, particularly medical radioisotopes, have traditionally been made via irradiation of a target material with neutrons in a nuclear reactor, or with an accelerated proton beam. Today's commercial particle accelerators generate relatively low currents and therefore low production yields —a major barrier to the mass production of isotopes. Nusano upends this paradigm.

"Historic methods of manufacturing are really limited to one, maybe two, different types of radioisotopes," said Howard Lewin, M.D., co-founder and chief product development officer of Nusano. "Our platform allows us to produce a wide variety of products that are generally unavailable. This opens the door for innovation and more effective targeted cancer therapy."

The Nusano ion source produces high-current beams of ions, enabling the high-volume production of a broad array of radioisotopes. The company will be capable of producing up to 12 radioisotopes simultaneously, allowing its customers to choose from more than 40 isotopes to meet their specific needs.

Nusano has raised more than $400 million in debt and equity and anticipates beginning production in the fall of 2025. With more than 170 people already on the payroll, Nusano plans to ultimately reach 300 employees in the next two years.

by Q4 2026 and begin large-scale production in Q1 2027. A single Nusano system will be capable of producing more than 50 metric tons of HALEU annually — with a small footprint, lower initial capital investment, and lower operating costs than other proposed solutions. Nusano plans to scale its production to approximately 350 metric tons annually by 2029.

Beyond Cancer

Nusano's core technologies and capabilities extend beyond oncology to aerospace, energy, and modern logistics. "The isotopes don't care how they are used," said Lowe. "The power, flexibility, and capacity of our product mean we can continue supplying the war against cancer at the same time that we take on other equally important challenges." Such challenges include helping to stave off energy shortfalls.

Expected to partially fulfill that demand are next-generation, small modular nuclear reactors. However, these reactors require a specific type of fuel: High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU). Current solutions are capable of providing less than 1% of that supply.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that by 2035, the country will need 50 metric tons per year of HALEU, escalating to 500 metric tons per year by 2050. Here, as in life sciences, Nusano is working to provide answers. The company plans to produce commercial samples of HALEU

"I am fully confident that when the next round of history and physics textbooks are written, they will reference the Wasatch mountains and the innovations emerging from Nusano as generational achievements that transformed modern life," added Lowe. "We thrive on doing what has not been done. We carry Utah's pioneering spirit with us every step of the way."

Build it and They Will Come

West Valley City is gaining notoriety as a rising life sciences hub. This is due, in part, to the founding of the Medical Innovation Technology (MIT) Research Campus by the Wasatch Group, where Nusano has become a magnet for investment and other bio-related enterprises.

A Place for the Breakthroughs of Tomorrow

When Nusano decided to move its operations from California to Utah in 2021, it chose West Valley City, where the Wasatch Group's MIT Research Campus is taking shape. The development is a premier hub for cutting-edge medical manufacturing and collaboration, strategically located near the heart of the Salt Lake Valley. It's a place where the 9-5 workday can blend seamlessly into a late-night brainstorming session or a pickup game.

The Multiplier Effect

As an anchor company in the emerging MIT Research Campus, Nusano's facility is attracting new neighbors to the grounds, including the fast-growing contract development and manufacturing organization, PharmaLogic, biotech storage and logistics provider Summit Bioservices, and radiopharmaceutical developer Ratio Therapeutics. Others, like Ratio, are contemplating facilities near Nusano in order to take full advantage of the radioisotope production that has a limited life. The sooner the product is put into use, the better. Thus, physical proximity is critical for many processes.

"The location not only places us near potential suppliers, such as Nusano, but also provides the infrastructure needed to meet future manufacturing demands at commercial scale," said Jack Hoppin, Ph.D., chairman and CEO of Ratio. "This represents a major step toward Ratio's mission of developing and rapidly transitioning innovative radiopharmaceuticals to the clinic."

Nusano's current investment of $400 million, along with the nearly 300 jobs it will ultimately generate, is sure to trigger a chain reaction of increased innovation and economic activity, demonstrating a positive multiplier effect to support Utah's burgeoning life sciences and technology sectors.

Wasatch Group Fuels Growth

The Wasatch Group has been embracing medical innovation for years. It's no surprise that the company is not only the spark behind the MIT Research Campus, but is also an investor in Nusano. Early on, the Wasatch Group recognized the company's potential to revolutionize precision medicine. They've also backed Ratio Therapeutics to further drive the field forward.

Today, Wasatch Group continues to partner with visionary teams to advance health. Earlier this year, Wasatch Group formed Wasatch Health to provide flexible capital and operational expertise across key healthcare sectors. This effort is enhanced with the launch of the $150 million Wasatch Health Structured Capital Fund designed to support innovative, high-growth healthcare companies with non-dilutive, tailored capital.

With Nusano as an anchor attracting companies, MIT Research Campus catering to innovative medical technology companies, and Wasatch Health providing financial fuel, it is a perfect trifecta for establishing a significant life sciences campus helping to incentivize more industry growth.

Medical Innovation Technology Campus

INNOVATION TAKING ROOT

WEST VALLEY CITY, UT

VIRTUAL TOUR

The MIT Campus represents a new model for collaboration for the future of health innovation in Utah.

- Customizable Class A facilities
- Diverse Campus
- Seamless Connectivity
- Ideal location for professionals, engineers, leaders, & researchers driving progress in healthcare worldwide.

"The MIT Campus is where innovation and disruption happen. It's synergistic technologies are commercialized to enable customers to solve their biggest challenges."

Chris Lowe, CEO Nusano

#1

BEST STATE FOR BUSINESS

10 MINUTES TO SLC INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

15 MINUTES TO DOWNTOWN SALT LAKE CITY

JOHN DAHLSTROM

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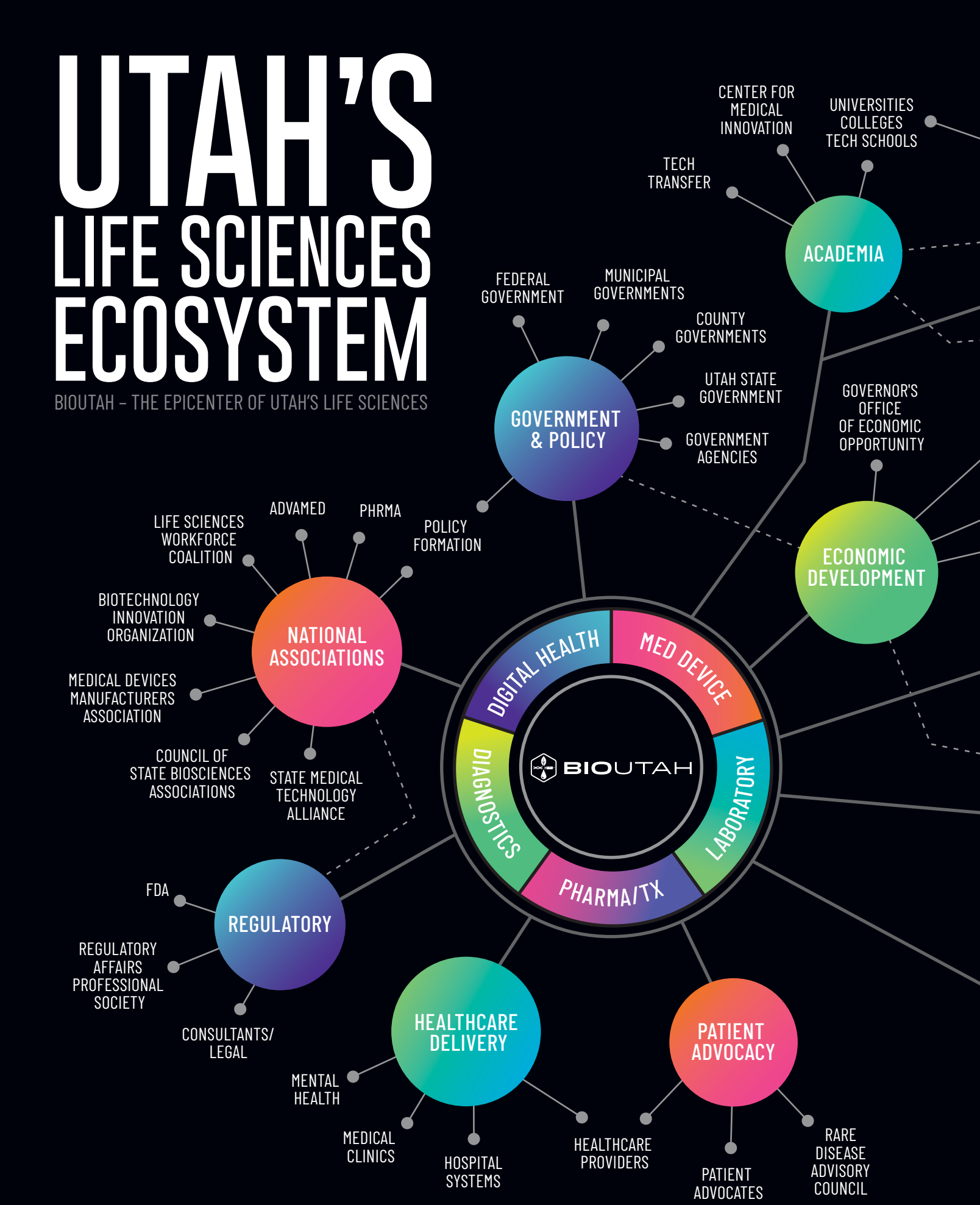
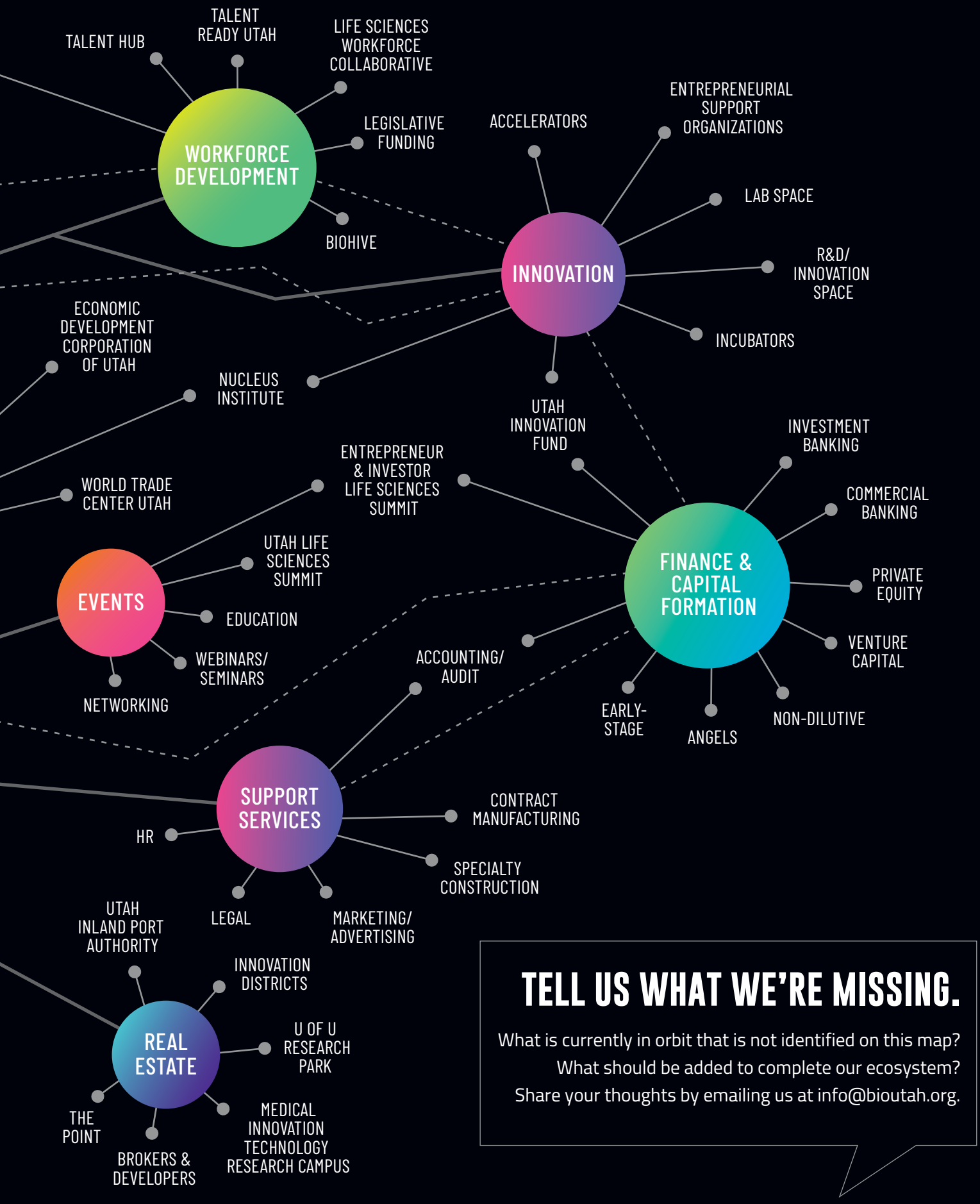
WASATCH GROUP

UTAH'S LIFE SCIENCES ECOSYSTEM

BIOUTAH – THE EPICENTER OF UTAH'S LIFE SCIENCES





TELL US WHAT WE'RE MISSING.

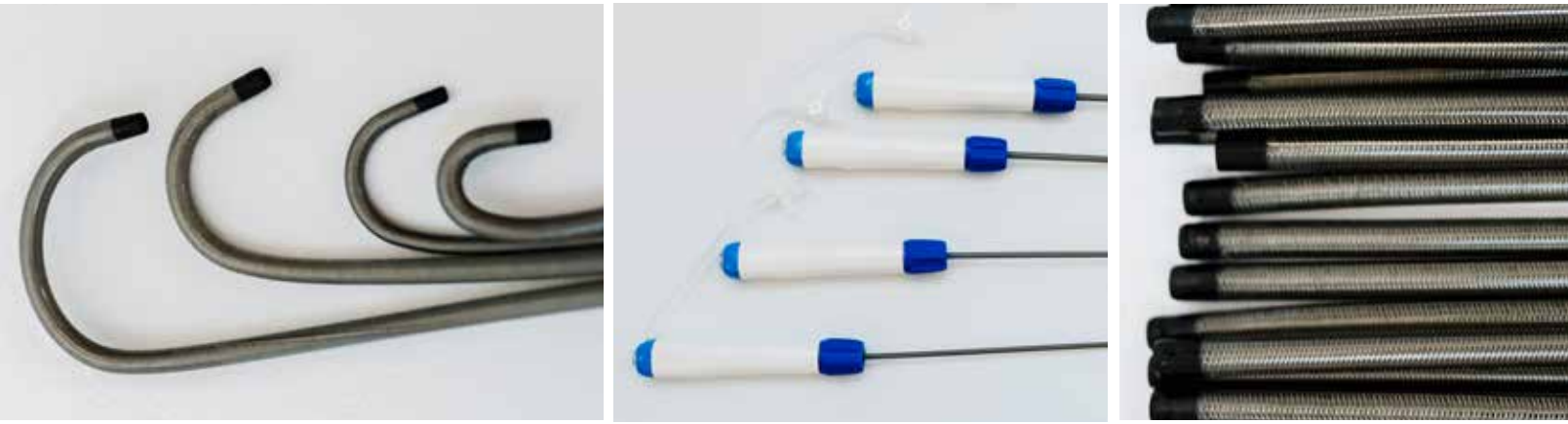
What is currently in orbit that is not identified on this map? What should be added to complete our ecosystem? Share your thoughts by emailing us at info@bioutah.org.

GOLD + STandard = AuST GROUP

AuST was founded by two Utah natives, Steve Leeflang and Chris Eversull. Both started their careers as research and development engineers, developing products together at a series of startup companies in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2009, the pair undertook to expand and diversify their development capabilities, launching AuST Development as a collaborative design company focused on cardiovascular catheters and minimally invasive devices. Working with both startups and established device companies, AuST successfully brought to clinical use a range of proprietary products for electrophysiology, structural heart, and other cardiovascular applications that are now manufactured for well-recognized medical device brands treating patients worldwide.

Innovation in both product development and manufacturing techniques led to organic growth, and in 2015, AuST started a small manufacturing operation in Utah while continuing design activities in the Bay Area. Production focused initially on complex catheter components and assemblies, but by 2019, the manufacturing portfolio expanded to include finished medical devices, building on AuST's deep roots in the field of cardiac electrophysiology. AuST has played a key role in the rapidly expanding field of conduction system pacing, where all major lead delivery systems have been developed by the AuST team.

Today, the AuST Group is headquartered in West Valley City, Utah, and has hired more than 750 employees in the last 24 months. Recent rapid growth has been possible by drawing on Utah's deep pool of experienced executives, talented engineers, and skilled production workers. Devices produced by AuST are now used in more than 70 countries.



Cardiac delivery catheters manufactured by AuST.

Building on its development origin, AuST now offers a full suite of services, including early concept development, support of clinical feasibility studies, design and execution of global regulatory strategies, and ultimately scaled commercial production. At the core of AuST's success is a fully integrated model that unites cutting-edge R&D with in-house, high-volume manufacturing capacity. By combining these capabilities under one roof, the team ensures seamless collaboration between all stakeholders, including design engineers, clinical experts, and production teams. This synergy accelerates product development timelines, enhances design-for-manufacturability, and guarantees that every innovation is built with both clinical impact and real-world scalability in mind. AuST's model gives partners comprehensive solutions while streamlining the path from breakthrough ideas to life-saving devices.

While cardiovascular innovation remains its cornerstone, AuST is rapidly expanding into a broader medical device landscape such as endoscopy and endosurgery, pulmonary interventions, and lymphatic access. Additionally, the company offers well-established platform technologies in lead delivery systems, steerable access sheaths, disposable endoscopes, and catheter construction for numerous other clinical applications. AuST offers vertically integrated capabilities in components and sub-assemblies, including braiding, tipping, forming, bonding, proprietary liners, molding, testing, and final assembly. Notably, the company has a well-proven track record of being able to ramp to extremely high volumes on very short timelines, as witnessed by its central role in the rise of pulse field ablation systems in recent years.

With focused leadership, scalable infrastructure, and aspirations for global impact, AuST is working to set the gold standard for innovation, operational excellence, and patient impact.

AU

Design ▪ Development ▪ Manufacturing


Formulation

FFKR ARCHITECTS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIO

Architects and lab planners dedicated to planning, programming, and designing spaces for Utah's thriving life science innovation community. Our team provides expertise across a range of facility types including:

- Flexible and efficient laboratories
- Collaboration-driven workplace design
- Innovative R&D spaces supporting cutting-edge technologies
- Turnkey incubator facilities for emerging entrepreneurs
- Biomedical manufacturing facilities
- Clean room design
- Master planning and visioning for strategic growth

Clients trust us to design cost-effective, high-performance facilities tailored to their unique needs, with the versatility to adapt to future innovation in a rapidly evolving industry.

Industry Collaboration

DRAPER · UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION · bunnell gentle ventilation · Laborie FOR DIGNITY. FOR LIFE. · accenture · FALCON HILL NATIONAL AEROSPACE RESEARCH PARK · WOODBURY CORPORATION · carterra · TEXTRON · THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH · BIOMÉRIEUX · INTEGRA CRE · BD

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OPENING IN FEBRUARY 2026

James LeVoy Sorenson Center for Medical Innovation

The future of med tech starts here.

MAKE

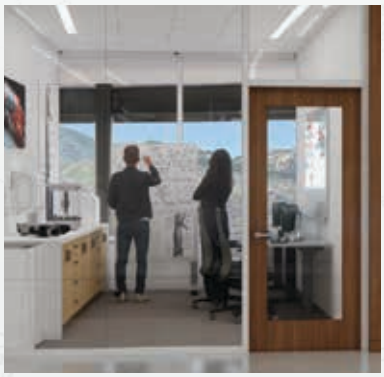
State-of-the-art facility offering medical device engineering and design services, prototyping, verification testing and a certified clean room for proof-of-concept fabrication.

HOST

Event Center to host conferences, trainings, workshops, networking events and more.

WORK

Incubator spaces available for local startups, offering full access to building facilities and a collaborative environment designed to foster interdisciplinary innovation—with support from medical, legal, and technical experts.



TRAIN

Discovery OR Training Center: a fully equipped 10-table operating room for fresh tissue testing and surgical training.

U HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

CENTER FOR MEDICAL INNOVATION
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

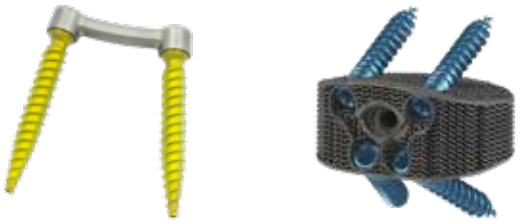
Stay in the loop. Scan for your invitation to the Grand Opening.

THESE COMPANIES HAVE YOUR BACK

Back pain is as ancient as humanity, but the science behind fixing it has never been more modern. Across Utah, a cluster of trailblazing companies is reshaping the future of spine care—turning once-invasive surgeries into minimally disruptive procedures, designing implants that move like natural bone, and even regenerating damaged discs at the cellular level. From breakthrough biologics to next-generation implant materials, these innovators aren't just improving technology—they're changing how patients heal, move, and live.

NEXUS SPINE

Nexus Spine was formed to drive the cutting edge of spine implant technology. Having specialized his entire career in orthopedic product development and commercialization, Utah native and inventor David Hawkes recognized the spine industry had reached a plateau and was ripe for its next generation of device designs—not merely in peripheral product lines, but in the major product categories daily affecting patients worldwide. Hawkes envisioned technically demanding yet ultimately simple implant solutions that would allow fewer components and less material to accomplish more.



Pedicle screw constructs smaller and stand-alone lumbar interbody device with anatomical stiffness.

Hawkes teamed up with Salt Lake City-based, medical device focused Crocker Ventures to create a true "product design first" medical device company, and as a result today physicians can accomplish implantations more easily and with less disruption to patient anatomy, reduced implant bulk in patients can provide more stability, and inter-body device stiffness remarkably matches that of surrounding bone.

DiscGenics, a biotechnology company founded to revolutionize spine care, relocated to Salt Lake City in early 2012, where it co-located with the University of Utah's CellRegen group. After completing its pre-clinical and early clinical phases, the company established its headquarters and cGMP manufacturing facility near the Salt Lake City airport in 2019.

DiscGenics' IDCT injection

DiscGenics has developed a regenerative treatment for mild to moderate chronic low back pain caused by degenerative disc disease, a critical unmet need. Current treatments only manage symptoms temporarily, often leading patients toward invasive spinal surgeries and prolonged opioid use.

DiscGenics Corporate Office

The company's flagship therapy, Injectable Disc Cell Therapy (IDCT, or rebonuptemcel), is a first-in-class allogeneic biologic drug. Delivered through a minimally invasive outpatient injection, IDCT uses patented Discogenic cells—derived from donated adult human disc tissue—to combat pain, restore function, and regenerate disc volume.

Following successful early-phase clinical trials in the U.S. and Japan, DiscGenics earned the FDA's Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy designation in 2023. The designation, in part, helps expedite regenerative medicine therapies like DiscGenics' IDCT. With Phase III trials launching in mid-2025, the company is preparing for U.S. Biologics License Applications submission and pursuing regulatory pathways in Japan, marking a pivotal moment in spine care innovation.

In 2008, Salt Lake City-based SINTX Technologies (SINTX) made history by introducing the first FDA-cleared spinal implant made from medical-grade silicon nitride - offering a rare trifecta of antimicrobial, osteogenic, and radiolucent properties, through SINTX's proprietary manufacturing process. With over 50,000 implants used globally, SINTX has become a leader in advanced spine care, rooted in Utah innovation.

SINTX Technologies Corporate Office

The company is now advancing a hybrid biomaterial combining silicon nitride with polymers like PEEK and PEKK—broadening applications across orthopedics, spine, oral/maxillofacial, cranio-maxillofacial, and oncologic reconstruction.

VALEO™ Spine Implants

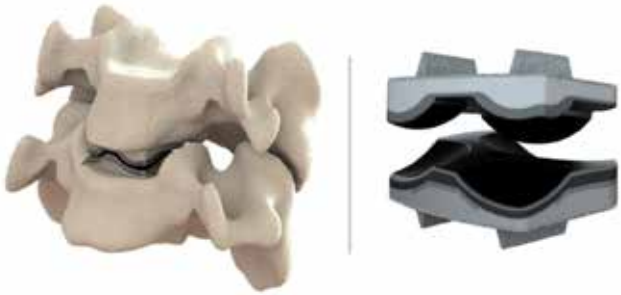
Hospitals want outcomes, not just implants. Surgeons want versatility, not just predictability. Patients want to heal faster, move better, and live without fear of infection or failure. SINTX is answering that call with fundamentals and a leadership team that's seen the industry from every angle.

"We're here to improve lives," said Eric Olson, CEO of SINTX. "We've built the science. We've proven the outcomes. And we're proud to be doing it in a state that has always supported spine advancement."

DYMICRON®

REPLACE. RESTORE. REVITALIZE.

Cervical disc disease affects millions worldwide, often causing debilitating neck pain and neurological symptoms. Traditional treatments like fusion can limit motion and accelerate degeneration in adjacent levels. Enter Dymicron's Triadyme-C®, a CE-marked, next-generation cervical artificial disc now being implanted in select countries and recently granted FDA IDE approval for U.S. clinical trials.



Triadyme-C Cervical Artificial Disc

What sets Triadyme-C apart is its groundbreaking Adymite™ polycrystalline diamond bearing surfaces—engineered to produce virtually no wear debris. Unlike traditional implant materials, Adymite™ offers unmatched hardness and low friction, addressing a major cause of implant failure. Its patented tri-lobed design restores natural spinal kinematics, providing long-term motion preservation and enhanced stability.

As U.S. clinical trials begin, Triadyme-C is poised to redefine the standard of care for cervical disc replacement, offering patients a wear-resistant, motion-preserving solution designed to last a lifetime.

Renew

BREAKTHROUGH DIAGNOSTICS

THE (RE)NEW WAY

Re-imagining How Disease is Studied, Detected, Monitored, and Managed

Renew Biotechnologies is building a new foundation for understanding human disease. Co-founded by Chad Pollard, Ph.D. and Tim Jenkins, Ph.D. in 2022 on technology licensed from Brigham Young University, Renew combines advanced molecular technologies with integrated infrastructure to not only reshape how conditions are diagnosed and treated, but also how they are studied, tracked, and ultimately understood.

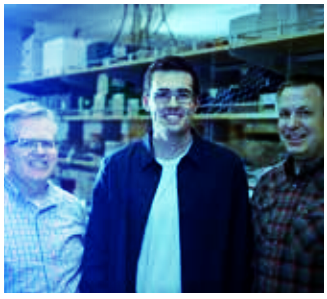
Renew believes that better research fuels better diagnostics, and better diagnostics lead to better care. While their primary focus is accelerating the next generation of clinical testing, they are equally committed to equipping researchers and drug developers with the tools to uncover novel insights into disease biology, therapeutic response, and patient stratification.

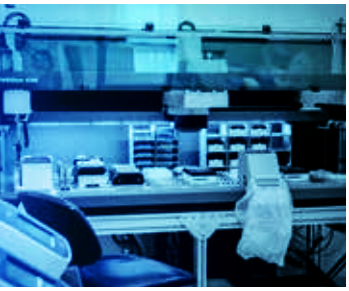
A key area of impact is neurodegeneration, where Renew is pioneering blood-based technologies for the earliest possible detection of conditions like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and ALS. Although these diseases affect millions, early detection and intervention remain elusive due to the limitations of traditional tools, which are often invasive, late stage, or lacking molecular precision. By enabling high-resolution, molecular-level analysis, Renew aims to identify disease earlier, monitor its progression, and help drive more effective, targeted therapies.

To realize this vision, Renew has built a vertically integrated ecosystem anchored by two specialized portfolio companies, Resonant and Wasatch Biolabs.

Resonant

Resonant, a clinical diagnostics subsidiary, is developing scalable, clinic-ready screening panels for detecting neurodegenerative pathology, potentially years before symptoms appear.





WASATCH.BIOLABS

Wasatch BioLabs is a sequencing and analytics powerhouse that uses advanced, next-generation sequencing (NGS) platforms and proprietary algorithms that reveal key epigenetic signatures to unlock new biomarkers and translational insights across disease areas.

Renew Bridges Research and Care

By unifying platform development, sample processing, and data interpretation under one roof, Renew accelerates the feedback loop between research and care. From discovery to delivery, Renew closes the gap between bench and bedside.

As evidence of their groundbreaking technology, Oxford Nanopore Technologies, an international powerhouse, is collaborating with Renew to advance the accuracy, scalability, and accessibility of methylation sequencing for industry-leading applications. Renew's technology supports improved disease detection and management and exemplifies the innovation that defines Utah's life sciences community.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Learn More at nucleusutah.org

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Utah's life sciences industry is widely recognized as a leader in healthcare innovation and a force for economic growth. BioUtah holds an annual award ceremony to celebrate the distinguished service, notable achievements, and outstanding contributions of the change makers that are shaping the industry and building its future.

BioUtah also holds an annual pitch competition where panels of expert judges award prizes to medical device, diagnostic, digital health, and biotechnology startups. Additionally, Varex Imaging recently took home Zions Bank's *Global Pacesetter* award.

"We congratulate these awardees for their vision, leadership, and pioneering work to advance health and wellness," said Kelvyn Cullimore, president and CEO of BioUtah.

Get to know this impressive list of winners.

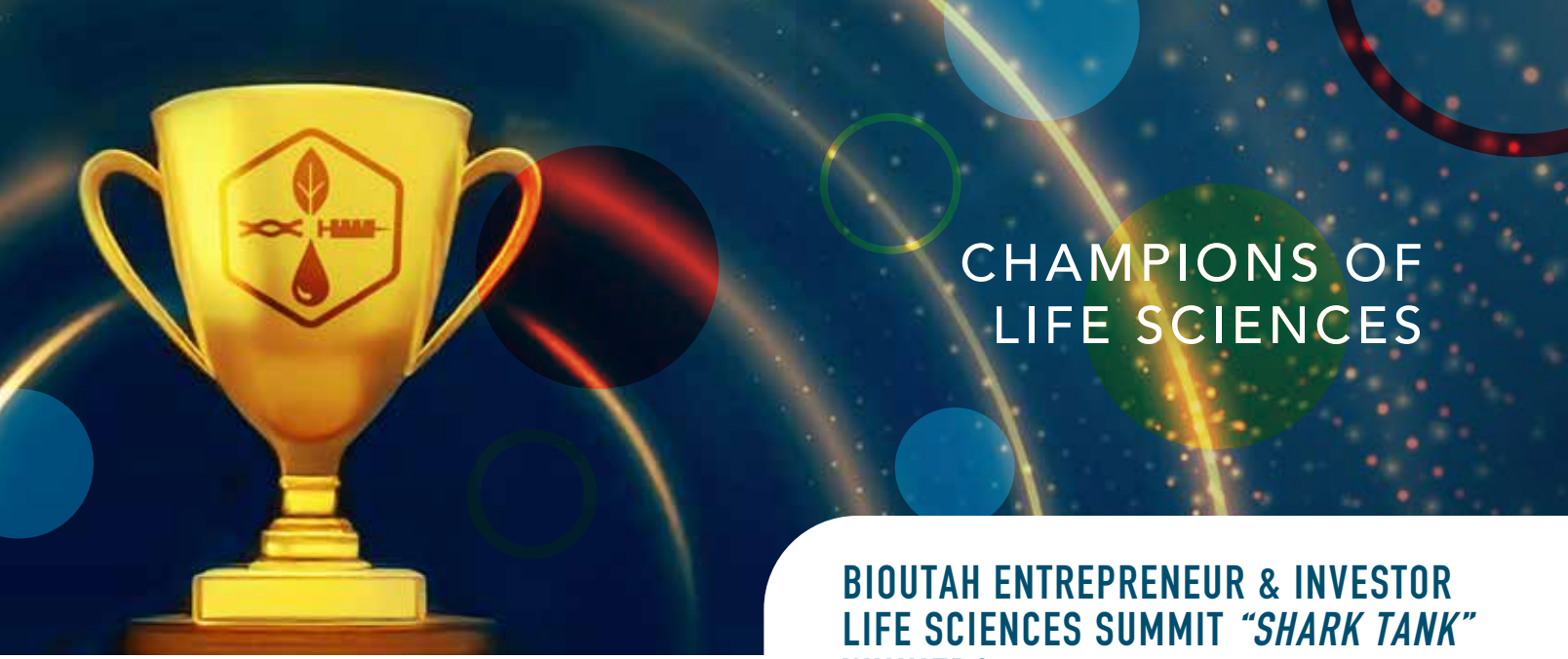
BIOUTAH LIFE SCIENCES AWARDS

BioUtah Lifetime Achievement Award

Wm. Dean Wallace, M.D., Ph.D., CEO of Liger Medical, received the BioUtah *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his contributions to Utah's life sciences industry as a physician and entrepreneur. Over a stellar career, Wallace has pioneered new life-changing technologies, including medical products to improve and advance women's health. Wallace obtained an M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Utah, then founded several medical device companies. Liger Medical is his latest entrepreneurial endeavor in the state. Liger focuses on treating pre-cancerous lesions of the cervix with the hope of eradicating cervical cancer worldwide. He previously served as founder and CEO of Clinical Innovations (sold to Laborie) and CEO of Utah Medical Products. Both companies continue to operate today.

Executive of the Year Award

Brad Brown, founder and co-chairman of ATL Technology, received the *Executive of the Year Award* for his outstanding leadership in expanding the breadth and reach of ATL's manufacturing footprint, which now includes facilities in Costa Rica, China, the United Kingdom, and, most recently, Minneapolis. Sadly, a few months after being recognized with this award, Brad lost his life in a helicopter accident. Nevertheless, ATL continues to thrive based on his vision and efforts to expand the company's reach.



CHAMPIONS OF LIFE SCIENCES

Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Jay Muse, president and CEO of Piper Access, was honored as the *Entrepreneur of the Year* for his bold, inspiring can-do spirit and novel work to produce new, innovative catheter technologies to improve and save lives. As a serial entrepreneur, Jay has successfully translated his inventions into commercial products acquired by multiple companies improving the lives of thousands of patients each year.

Innovation Impact Award

Blackrock Neurotech, co-founded by Florian Solzbacher, president and CSO, and Marcus Gerhardt, CEO, was honored with the *Innovation Impact Award* for disrupting the brain-computer interface market with next-generation, implantable neurotechnologies that seek to help individuals with paralysis and neurological disorders.

Friend of Industry Award

Vic Hockett of Talent Ready Utah, Utah System of Higher Education, received the *Friend of Industry Award* for establishing workforce development initiatives for the life sciences industry, including internships, returnships, and training programs at Utah universities.

BIOUTAH ENTREPRENEUR & INVESTOR LIFE SCIENCES SUMMIT *"SHARK TANK"* WINNERS

Four Utah life sciences companies were honored as winners of the *Shark Tank*-style pitch competition at BioUtah's 2025 Entrepreneur & Investor Life Sciences Summit, sponsored by Wilson Sonsini and Nusano. Taking home first-place prizes of $4,000 and a one-year membership in BioUtah were **Demeter** and **RefloDx** for medical devices and diagnostics, **Sethera Therapeutics** for therapeutics, and **Monere** for digital health and biotechnology.

Zions Bank Global Pacesetter Award

During the 2025 Crossroads of the World International Trade Summit, Zions Bank presented Salt Lake City-based **Varex Imaging Corporation** with the Global Pacesetter award—a distinction given to a Utah company demonstrating international success. Varex supplies medical X-ray technology and image processing solutions around the world for a variety of uses—from medical imaging to cargo screening and border security.

IN MEMORIAM:

BRADFORD JAMES BROWN — INDUSTRY TITAN

Bradford James Brown, a transformative leader who significantly shaped the medical device industry, passed away on February 20, 2025, at age 59. Brad's unique ability to foster collaboration and genuinely connect distinguished him as an industry innovator and respected mentor.

In 1993, Brad co-founded Precision Interconnect Cable, later known as ATL Technology, with Dan Ellertson. Initially focused on mobile computing connectors, ATL pivoted to medical device innovation under Brad's direction. His engineer-to-engineer approach accelerated the development of customized interconnect solutions, making ATL Technology a key partner in the global healthcare industry. ATL is now recognized for advancing medical devices and improving patient outcomes worldwide.

"Brad's long-term vision was to build a medical device company that would survive him for generations," said Zane Daggett, ATL's vice president of sales & marketing. "In my mind, he succeeded in achieving this life-long goal."

Brad actively shaped Utah's broader medtech community through leadership roles at BioUtah, including serving as board chair. In 2024, he was recognized as BioUtah's *Executive of the Year*. Passionate about education, Brad supported engineering programs at BYU, UVU, and the University of Utah, demonstrating his commitment to future innovation.

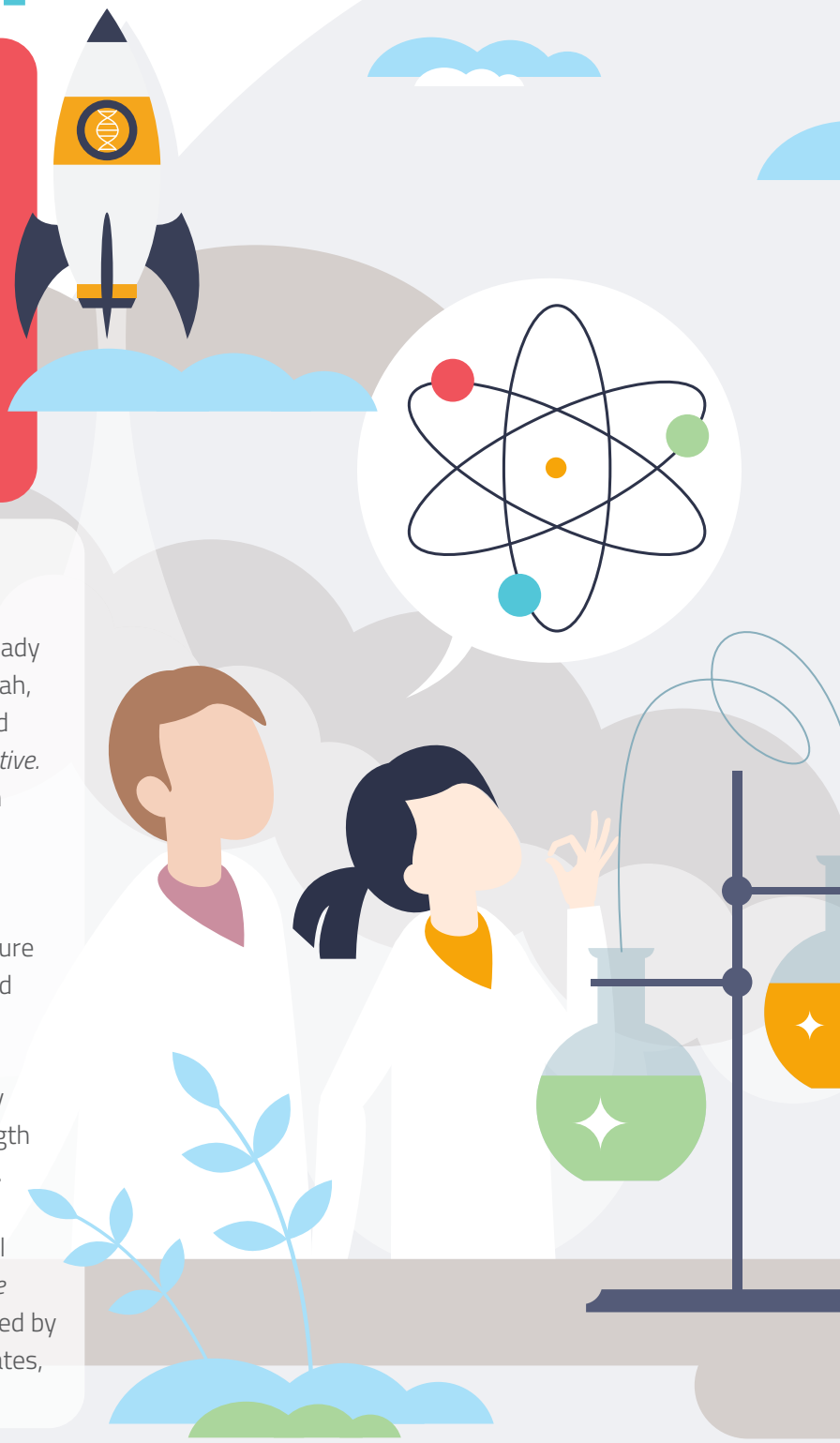
"Brad is a giant among men," shared his family. "His generosity and dedication to service impacted countless individuals. His faith in God was the foundation of his character and good works."

Married to Shannon for 37 years and father of six, Brad's personal life reflected his professional values. His passions for aviation and fishing highlighted his appreciation for life's quieter moments.

Brad will be remembered for his significant contributions to innovation, education, and leadership, leaving a lasting legacy that profoundly influences the medical device industry and countless individuals worldwide.

UTAH LAUNCHES BOLD PUSH TO IGNITE LIFE SCIENCES WORKFORCE

Over the last two legislative sessions, the State of Utah has funded and deployed significant resources to strengthen the workforce in the life sciences. In 2024, the *Life Sciences Workforce Initiative* was established, and in 2025, a bill establishing the Utah Talent Hub was approved.



Utah's Life Sciences Workforce Initiative

Utah's life sciences industry is thriving, and with this growth comes a rising demand for a skilled, future-ready workforce. To meet this need, Utah employers, BioUtah, Talent Ready Utah, and the state's public colleges and universities launched the *Life Sciences Workforce Initiative.* This groundbreaking, strategic effort aligns education with industry demand.

Through a bold and strategic move to support Utah's rapidly growing life sciences sector, the Utah Legislature appropriated $4 million in 2024 in funding to build and sustain this initiative.

Job growth in the life sciences sector has consistently outpaced national trends, reflecting the state's strength in research, innovation, and advanced manufacturing. As companies grow and technology advances, the demand increases for talent equipped with traditional scientific training and cross-disciplinary skills. The *Life Sciences Workforce Initiative* directly addresses this need by awarding grant funding to create and expand certificates,

apprenticeships, degree programs, and postgraduate credentials across the state's public higher education institutions.

This initiative goes beyond education. It strengthens Utah's position as a national hub for life sciences innovation and manufacturing by preparing Utahns for high-wage, high-demand careers. The funded programs create and expand opportunities for students to gain hands-on, specialized training, practical experience, and industry-specific knowledge. This ensures that graduates are ready to contribute on their first day of work.

The Utah Talent Hub

The Utah Talent Hub is revolutionizing how employers across the state connect with students from local colleges and universities. Built in direct response to industry needs, this smart, centralized platform bridges the gap between education and employment by matching students with real-world opportunities.

For Utah business leaders, The Utah Talent Hub is more than a platform—it's a strategic workforce development tool. Whether a company is looking to post internships, apprenticeships, co-ops, high-impact projects, or collaborate with Utah colleges and universities to shape training programs, Talent Hub makes it easy to engage with the next generation of talent , and can be accessed at utahtalenthub.org.

This free, state-supported resource launched by the 2025 legislative session provides streamlined access to students and graduates from Utah's 16 public technical and community colleges, as well as regional and research universities. The platform is designed to help employers connect to rising talent, fill workforce gaps, drive innovation, and build lasting partnerships with Utah higher education providers.

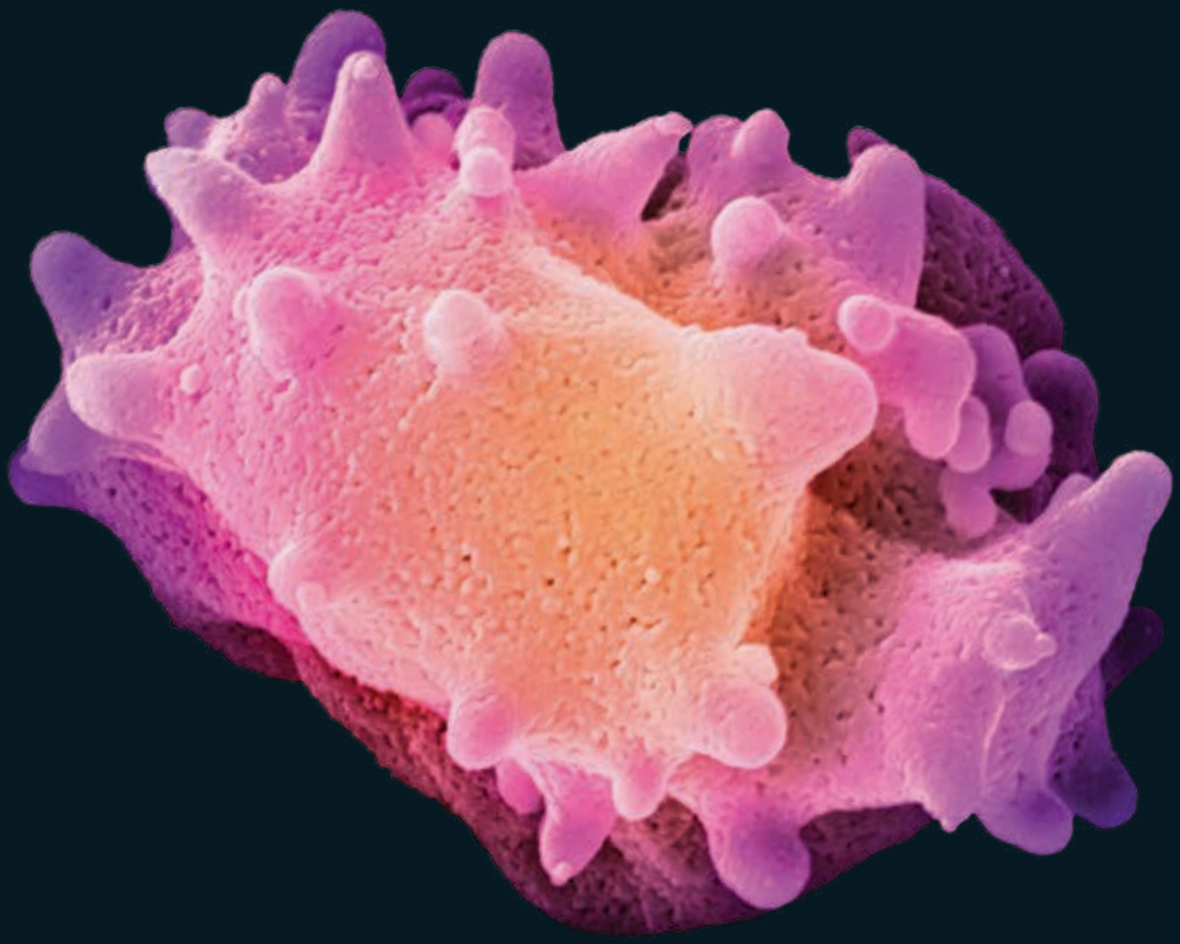
Talent Hub, developed in partnership with Utah employers, Talent Ready Utah, the Nucleus Institute, and BioUtah, unites education, industry, and government to connect industry with students and build Utah's workforce.

Partnering for a Stronger Life Sciences Workforce

Utah's business community plays a critical role in shaping the future of the life sciences workforce. By partnering with educational institutions, supporting program development, and offering apprenticeships and internships, employers help ensure that the next generation of talent is ready to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The *Life Sciences Workforce Initiative* and the Utah Talent Hub are just two of the ways that the State of Utah is helping to ensure Utah stays at the forefront of life sciences innovation.

As the state's life sciences economy continues to grow, these resources ensure that its workforce grows with it. By fostering close partnerships with Utah employers, this forward-looking strategy builds a sustainable ecosystem that elevates Utah's role within the life sciences sector nationwide.



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FUELING HEALTHCARE INNOVATION

University of Utah Ventures is an early-stage venture capital fund designed to accelerate the growth of technology companies within and adjacent to the University of Utah ecosystem. The fund has $200M to deploy and is managed by EPIC Ventures, a Salt Lake City-based investment firm with over three decades of venture capital investing experience.

The partnership combines the university's nearly $700 million in annual research funding with EPIC Ventures' track record of scaling successful companies to drive regional innovation and long-term economic growth. One core focus for the fund will be healthcare and life sciences. With the University of Utah's nationally ranked research enterprise and medical system, the fund is uniquely positioned to identify and support promising technologies and teams at their earliest stages.

"The University of Utah Ventures fund represents a transformative opportunity for both the University and the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. By partnering with EPIC Ventures, we're not only fostering innovation within our institution, but also advancing economic growth across the region."

— Taylor Randall
President, University of Utah

The fund complements Utah's expanding health and bioscience ecosystem, working closely with institutional partners like University of Utah Health and ARUP Laboratories. It also builds on EPIC's track record of successful healthcare investments, including Collective Medical (acquired by PointClickCare), Recursion Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ: RXRX), Health Catalyst (NASDAQ: HCAT), and Conversa Health (acquired by Amwell).

Jack Boren, a Managing Partner at EPIC Ventures

"We're thrilled to partner with the University of Utah," said Jack Boren, a managing partner at EPIC Ventures. "By combining the university's cutting-edge research capabilities with our investment network and track record, this partnership will create a powerful platform that blends academic and research excellence with venture execution and founder-focused support.

University of Utah Ventures aims to catalyze new startups and strengthen the broader innovation economy, creating a more connected, capital-ready environment for emerging startups in Utah and beyond.

The establishment of this fund further validates Utah's evolving reputation for innovation, particularly in life sciences.

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Sunny Sanyal
CEO, Varex imaging

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

Initially used in the late 19th century to help battlefield physicians locate bullets in wounded soldiers, the use of X-rays to diagnose and treat diseases has an extensive and engrossing history that continues to this day. X-rays have now moved beyond health, supporting border security and infrastructure as well.

Behind this imaging evolution is Varex Imaging Corporation—a Utah-based leading independent supplier of X-ray tubes and image processing solutions. In fact, Varex, under various names, has been driving innovation in Utah for the past 75 years—essentially, making the invisible visible.

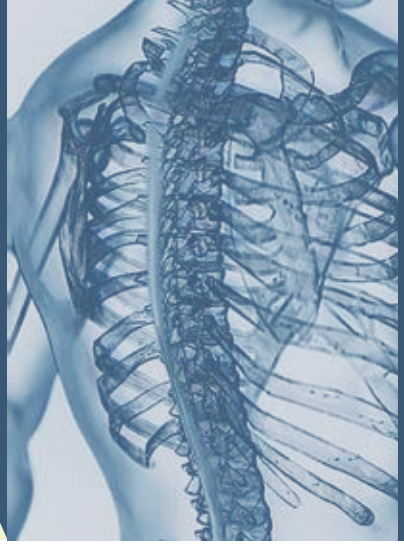
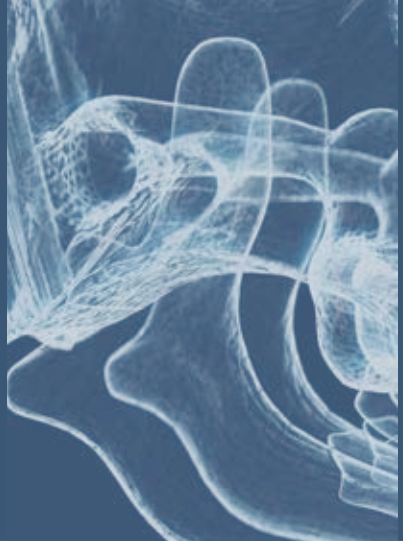
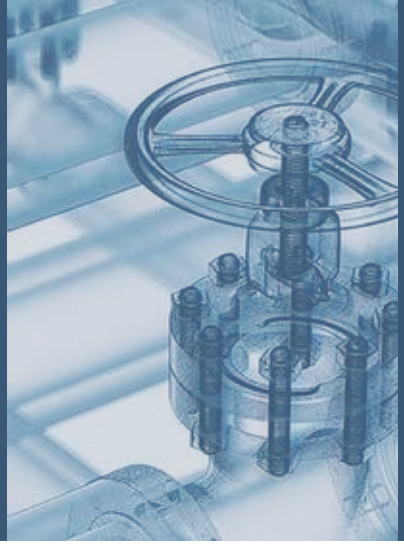
Varex 's footprint in Utah can be traced back to the 1940s when its predecessor, Elmac Products, relocated its manufacturing operations to the state after receiving a large military contract. Elmac merged with Varian Medical Systems in 1965, expanding Varian's imaging component business. To accommodate this growing part of the company, Varian launched the "spin-off" company, Varex, in 2017.

Deep Roots, Global Leadership in Utah

Forward thinking is the lifeblood of Varex, whose deep roots in Utah make it a foundational pillar of the state's life sciences industry, recognized for its contributions to the economy, dedication to the community, and mission to create products that positively impact millions of people worldwide.

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Varex boasts a large local and global presence with over 1,000 of its 2,300 global employees located in Utah and 350 engineers worldwide focused on advancements in imaging technologies and new product development. The company offers a wide range of products, including X-ray tubes, digital detectors, high-voltage connectors, X-ray image acquisition, and post-processing software.

Varex has also established manufacturing facilities abroad, including in North America, Asia, and Europe, to optimize supply chains and enhance customer service. These strategically located facilities enable Varex to reduce production costs, shorten lead times, improve the efficiency of distribution networks, and mitigate risks of regional disruptions.

"We are a global leader and the largest independent manufacturer of X-ray sources and detectors in the world," said Sunny Sanyal, CEO of Varex. "Companies all over the world partner with us because of our innovation, quality, and track record as a dependable supplier. They expect us to keep them continually positioned ahead of their competition with cutting-edge technology that makes our lives better."

By combining manufacturing scale and expertise with strong customer relationships and innovation, Varex continually explores the next generation of X-ray imaging products, technologies, and concepts. Over the past 20 years alone, Varex has invested over $1 billion in research and development. With products designed to harness the power of X-ray energy, Varex plays an important role in healthcare, customs and border security, and infrastructure integrity.

Medical Imaging

Varex's products are integrated into machines such as CT scanners, cardiovascular imaging, oncology radiation, mammography systems, and digital radiography equipment used in hospitals and clinics, allowing for clearer images and faster examinations.

Customs and Border Security

Varex's X-ray technologies extend to security applications, where its components are used for cargo and vehicle inspection, helping to promote safe borders and ports. These systems help detect contraband, explosives, narcotics, and other threats by providing detailed images of scanned objects.

Infrastructure Integrity

Varex's imaging expertise and equipment is also used for non-destructive testing to help detect flaws, cracks, or corrosion in materials and structures without causing damage, while assets are still operational. This ensures the integrity of critical infrastructure like pipelines and bridges.

Utah Proud

After more than seven decades in the state, Varex still proudly calls Utah home. From humble beginnings to a global imaging powerhouse, this enterprise, with its talented workforce and valued customers, has established a lasting legacy to help detect, diagnose, and protect us all well into the future.

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