



THE PULSE

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Pittsburgh's life sciences ecosystem has hit the ground running in 2025 with new milestones, customer and investment announcements, and opportunities to engage with industry leaders and colleagues. Get caught up on the latest local updates as well as statewide and national news impacting the sector.

Register today!

We have teamed up with Life Sciences PA to introduce **Life Sciences Future SW**.

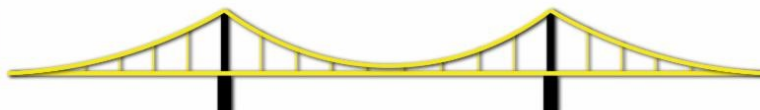
All-Star investors, innovators, and life sciences luminaries from across the Commonwealth and beyond are coming to Pittsburgh in April.

Join us to discuss breakthroughs in next-generation therapeutics, the application of AI to accelerate discovery, and the policy landscape impacting our industry.

Registration and Agenda

LIFE SCIENCES FUTURE

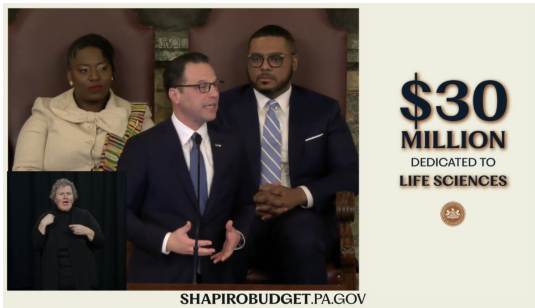
SW



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April 24 - Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

Gov. Signals Support for Life Sciences



In early February, Governor Shapiro gave his budget address outlining his FY25-26 proposal for the Commonwealth.

The proposal included \$65M dedicated to the innovation economy, with \$30M specifically aimed towards life sciences.

This is a catalytic first step to make PA more competitive and better support entrepreneurship and life sciences company growth in PA.

Pittsburgh at #JPM2025

We collaborated with the CMU Swartz Center and University of Pittsburgh Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship to host a panel of regional businesses operating at the intersections of AI, life sciences, and healthcare delivery alongside one of the most important life sciences conferences in the world.

Over 70 investors, influencers, journalists, and company executives showed up to hear leaders from [Abridge](#), [Pair Team](#), [Formation Bio](#), and [Avista Therapeutics](#) share the latest on their approach and growth.



County Executive Roundtable



PLSA joined local industry representatives from [Krystal Biotech](#), [CytoAgents](#), [Smith & Nephew](#), [Peptilogics](#), and [Neuro-Innovators](#) in a roundtable discussion with Allegheny County Executive Innamorato to discuss the importance of the sector in the region and opportunities for growth. Photo credit LSPA

Welcoming New Talent

We are growing our talent to grow our impact. We are thrilled to announce two new team members whose experience and expertise will help drive PLSA's mission forward.



Austin Price joins us as Vice President for External Affairs. He is a proven communicator and coalition builder who has led strategic initiatives with Highmark Health, Deloitte, and the federal government.



Cally Uhl is our Events and Marketing Coordinator. She brings a strong background in sales operations, sales support, digital and strategic marketing, and global event planning.

BioLabs - Investor Day and Survey

BioLabs extended the application deadline for companies interested in participating in their Philadelphia Investor Day to this Friday, March 14th. Interested investors and ecosystem partners can also submit interest in attending.

Last year the event featured

- 30 participating investor groups
- 65 participating start-ups
- 215 invite only attendees

The event is scheduled for April 22nd.

BioLabs is also conducting a survey to understand the needs of Pittsburgh biotech entrepreneurs related to:

- Co-working laboratory and office space
- Access to capital
- Retention of highly skilled talent
- Additional services needed to support growth

The results will inform design and investment for facilities and services to support the local life sciences community.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

[Complete the Survey](#)

Key Ecosystem News



Megan joins Bill Flanagan on *Our Region's Business* discuss our growing ecosystem, its world class ingredients, and the challenges to overcome.



Megan joined Chris Frew of BioBuzz to share why this is such an exciting time in our region.

ViVE 2025: UPMC Enterprises has AI on its radar as it launches new testing environment for developers

Fierce Healthcare and several other industry outlets covered UPMCE's launch of Ahavi, a platform that provides primary source, re-world healthcare data to assess and validate AI models.

How UPMC, Allegheny Health Network are employing AI within hospital setting

This article takes a look at some of the concrete ways our local health systems are testing and implementing AI to address operational and clinical challenges.

UNC Health to Adopt Abridge AI to Improve Clinical Conversations

Abridge keeps racking up the wins. After an initial year-long pilot UNC Health, one of the largest systems in the southeast, has decided to implement the technology across their entire network.

COEPTIS Completes \$10M Series A Preferred Financing Round, Reinforcing Commitment to Technological Innovation and AI Integration

The round will help the Wexford based company advance AI solutions and automation capabilities in the biopharmaceutical sector, per the release.

Judge blocks Trump funding freeze, but Pittsburgh nonprofits, service organizations still worry

Pittsburgh's NPR station asked us what impact NIH funding uncertainty could mean for the region.

“Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance CEO Megan Shaw noted...the stakes were high: "By funding research that is too early for the private sector to support, the NIH plays a foundational role in advancing medicine and innovation in human healthcare," Shaw said.”

How do scientists actually get NIH funding?

This article delves into the mechanics behind highly-selective NIH grant funding and the ripple effects on research and institutions from the recent turmoil in Washington.

New Industry Advisory Council Member



Thank you to Viatris for joining our [Industry Advisory Council](#). This council is central to keeping PLSA oriented to the issues that help life sciences companies start, grow, and thrive in the region.

Startup Spotlight

Humotech

- Wearable robotics
- Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA
- Founded in 2015

humotech



Tony Stader experiences Humotech's prosthetic foot emulator (Caplex with PRO-003). Photo by LeeAnn K Photography.

Humotech was founded in 2015 as a spin-out from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Its inception was driven by a critical need for evidence-based tools to advance wearable technology, such as prosthetics, orthotics, and exoskeletons. The founding team recognized that traditional development methods lacked the ability to rapidly test and refine new designs, often relying on costly and time-consuming trial-and-error.

To address this gap, Humotech developed the Caplex™ system, a groundbreaking platform that provides real-time emulation and data capture capabilities. This modular system empowers researchers and clinicians to analyze and optimize assistive device performance before physical prototypes are built, significantly reducing development cycles and improving outcomes.

Today, Humotech is a trusted partner for over 37 research institutions across the United States, Canada, and Europe. Its platform technology has been used to deliver evidence-based insights that shape mobility solutions, earning the company a reputation for innovation and reliability.

Now, Humotech is expanding into clinical markets, equipping prosthetists and clinicians with tools to deliver personalized, data-driven care. With its origins in academic ingenuity and a commitment to improving human mobility, Humotech is poised to transform assistive technology and healthcare delivery.

Employer Spotlight

Cook MyoSite

- [Biotech/Regenerative medicine](#)
- [Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA](#)
- [Founded in 2002](#)



Cook MyoSite, Incorporated, established in 2002 as a subsidiary of the Cook Group, is a pioneering biotechnology company headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, specializing in muscle cell technologies.

The Cook MyoSite mission began with a simple belief that the human body is capable of wonderful restorative potential. Over more than two decades of pioneering muscle cell research, Cook MyoSite has become one of the world's leading centers of knowledge regarding clinical muscle cell therapies.

Iltamiocel, Cook MyoSite's autologous muscle-derived cell (AMDC) technology, is an investigational personalized, regenerative cell therapy product. Created from a patient's own muscle cells, iltamiocel is theorized to engraft into existing dysfunctional target tissue to improve muscle function. To date, more than 700 participants have contributed to the iltamiocel clinical program. Currently, iltamiocel is being clinically investigated for female stress urinary incontinence, fecal incontinence, and oropharyngeal dysphagia (tongue dysphagia).

Leveraging this expertise in muscle cell technology, Cook MyoSite's specialized services provide a comprehensive range of development and support offerings, including manufacturing, process development, unique tissue sourcing, and cell culture optimization from growth and

differentiation to cryopreservation. Additionally, Cook MyoSite offers single-donor, primary human skeletal muscle cells characterized by age, gender, race, and BMI, with specially formulated media that is optimized for reliable cell culture growth, differentiation, and cryopreservation.

Cook MyoSite has cultivated a diverse workplace powered by an entrepreneurial spirit where each team member plays an integral role in advancing their mission. For more information on all open positions at Cook MyoSite, **visit their website**.

If you are interested in joining PLSA's Industry Advisory Council, please reach out to Jenn Rick at jrick@pittsburghlifesci.org.



The best way to stay on top of news and updates from PLSA, as well as the organizations in our ecosystem, is by following us on LinkedIn. Don't miss out!



We are always looking for your input! If you have suggestions for newsletter content or spotlights, please contact Austin Price at aprice@pittsburghlifesci.org.

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