Home to a Thriving Gene Therapy Ecosystem

In the past two decades, Ohio has developed a rare environment that supports, encourages and drives cutting-edge gene therapy research and commercialization. Today, that ecosystem, anchored by Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the Ohio State University, is among the nation’s leaders in generating startups and attracting investment and global industry attention.

World-class researchers, high-tech facilities and a growing investor base have created centers of excellence in Columbus as well as in Cleveland’s well-known healthcare sector and Cincinnati’s entrepreneurial community. Fueled by a talent pipeline and research initiatives at nearby universities such as Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, and Case Western University, these healthcare hubs are performing valuable research and generating companies with a common goal: to develop treatments to serve patients.

"Nationwide Children’s Hospital (NCH) has strategically developed a fully integrated, early stage gene therapy R&D capability, and, as a result, is truly differentiated in the emerging gene therapy sector. NCH has world-class science, state-of-the-art facilities, regulatory know-how, manufacturing expertise and capacity, and a pipeline of talent in collaboration with Ohio State University. Essentially, an early stage gene therapy biotech within a leading academic research hospital, NCH is making a positive impact in the lives of patients worldwide, suffering from devastating genetic diseases."

Michael Triplett, Ph.D.  chief executive officer, Myonexus
The Power of a Working Ecosystem

Ohio’s gene therapy ecosystem depends upon world-class researchers, visionary entrepreneurs and knowledgeable investors. The results: startups, progress toward product commercialization and, ultimately, improved patient care.

We're making a very significant commitment and investment in Columbus. We like to believe with the work that Nationwide Children's Hospital has already done, coupled with our commitment, there is a real chance Columbus, Ohio, could become the most important place in the world for gene therapy development.

Doug Ingram, president and CEO, Sarepta

There’s a rare combination of resources in Ohio that make it a really attractive destination for gene therapy companies. Entrepreneurs and young biotechs can tap into clinical expertise at The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and their resources like the GMP facility and in-house regulatory group. In addition, forming a company in Ohio, where there is more risk tolerance and great early stage funding partners, gives you a chance to excel as an entrepreneur much quicker.

Al Hawkins, founder and CEO, Milo Biotechnology

In neurological disease, it is rare to go from gene defect to therapy so directly, and the fact that this has happened in one place is perhaps even rarer.

John Kissel, M.D., chair of Neurology at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and director of the SMA Clinic at Nationwide Children’s Hospital

Ohio’s academic and clinical institutions have broad expertise in the development and validation of early stage cell and gene therapies. A new company’s ability to grow its biotech ecosystem. Access to key opinion leaders, research relationships and entrepreneurs have enabled us to grow a successful gene therapy company in Ohio.

Timothy J. Miller, Ph.D., president and chief scientific officer, Abeona Therapeutics, Inc.

To learn about the partnerships and resources available in Ohio, visit JobsOhio.com or reach out to our team:

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