

Sid's Ground Breaking | June 7, 1994 Ribbon Cutting September 26, 1995 | Origin Story

“ This building will be a centerpiece of the community, a place where interesting questions can be raised and novel solutions can be explored. ”

Work begins on UF's biotechnology center

By CHAD TERHUNE
Sun staff writer

The timing couldn't be better for the University of Florida's biotechnology facility.

After weathering some minor delays, construction is under way for their long-awaited Biotechnology Development Institute — a business incubator designed to help local faculty, entrepreneurs and commercial companies transfer UF technology to the marketplace.

The project originally was developed several years ago, before technology transfer had become the buzzword on university campuses nationwide and Enterprise Florida had selected Gainesville to be one of three Innovation and Commercialization Centers, scheduled to open by year's end.

Institute organizers sense these recent developments highlight the need for this type of facility and its potential success.

"Universities are gold mines for new ideas and applications," said Jani Sherrard, associate director of UF's Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research. "But instead of nesting on them as was done in the past, this is an opportunity to bring the benefits of that rich academic environment to

the general public.

"I think the timing and convergence with the ICC will be perfect. By the time we're ready, they'll be sending people our way," Sherrard said. "The timing is nice with the innovation center getting kicked up," said Jack Battenfield, associate vice president for university relations.

An official groundbreaking for the \$3.5 million free-standing facility at UF's Progress Center in Alachua will be held this morning at 10:30. Local political leaders and university officials will be on hand to name the building in honor of former state legislator Sid Martin.

"We're honoring him for all the things he's done for this community," Battenfield said.

The facility, scheduled to open in June 1995, will provide space and equipment for a wide range of research in agricultural, ecological and animal and human health sciences. A main 34,000-square-foot building will provide researchers and entrepreneurs laboratory and office suites plus shared conference rooms, a greenhouse and other support facilities.

The idea is that small startups often don't have the resources to obtain the space and equipment needed to develop their research for the market.

Institute tenants also will be able to share office personnel and other staff for routine matters such as cleaning laboratory test tubes or operating sophisticated research equipment.

A biotechnology faculty advisory committee, with input from UF's Vice President of Research Karen Holbrook, will review tenants' applications to the institute based on how commercially viable their idea is.

Once the research is refined, the tenant would leave the institute for its own facility or could set up a licensing agreement. Tenants will pay variable "access charges" for use of the institute.

"There has not been anything available of a comparable nature in terms of infrastructure support," Sherrard said.

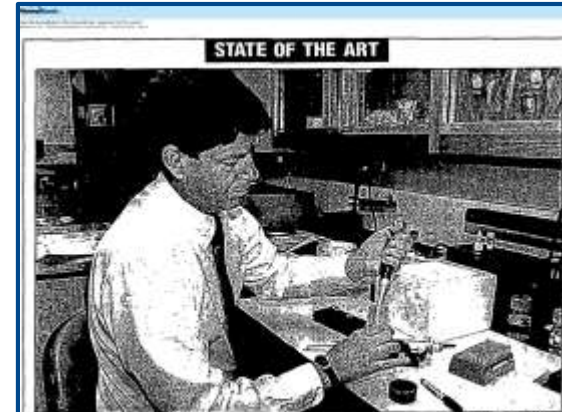
In addition to the main building, a nearby 25,000-square-foot livestock facility and an 8,000-square-foot small animal facility will provide laboratory space and a holding area for test subjects.

But more than the facilities, Sherrard said the most critical element of the institute will be the intellectual exchange among various disciplines.

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Biotech Institute at a glance

- Main 34,000-square-foot building at Progress Center in Alachua will include five entrepreneurial office suites, six incubator lab suites, nine development lab suites, four multipurpose lab suites, on-site core biotechnology support labs and a 600-square-foot greenhouse.
- Adjoining 8,000-square-foot small animal facility will provide multipurpose space for experiments.
- Nearby 25,000-square-foot livestock facility will house labs and 40 large animal pens.



Dr. William McKinstry, President of Florida Genetics Corporation, works with DNA fragments in a laboratory at the Sid Martin Biotechnology Development Institute, a new Biotechnology center in Alachua.

Institute offers shot at success

■ The Biotechnology Development Institute, which opens today, helps high-tech entrepreneurs.

By CHARLES BARTLETT
Sun business writer

Biotechnology Institute

► COST: \$3.5 million
► SIZE: The building is 34,000 square feet, other facilities include a 7,000-square-foot animal facility and a 25,000-square-foot livestock facility.

► FEATURES: Tenants get essential services and access to a variety of laboratories. All areas have access to computer and network facilities. Tenants have access to biotech labs at the University of Florida.

The center is structured so that it will work in concert with the North Florida Technology Innovation Center, a high-tech business incubator at the Progress Center, as well as with Enterprise Florida, the public-private state economic development organization based in Orlando.

Joe Whelan, business adviser to NPTIC, said the center provides a range of new opportunities for high-tech entrepreneurs.

The center offers the potential to provide office space for NPTIC clients.

"This is an opportunity to discover the way we can work together," Sherrard said.

The center is designed to keep companies here that would otherwise leave.

For instance, Whelan, chairman of Inova Biotechnology Inc., a company with five employees that is specializing in the cancer. Sherrard said he is working on a method of curing diabetes by transplanting pancreatic islets.

Traditionally, a big pharmaceutical company interested in the potential case history of Inova's research. The company would get some money and so would UF, when some of the research was completed and that would be the end of it. By virtue of the high level of research and development that can be done at the center, Inova can enter a deal with a large company that will enable them to continue work at the center and have more people.

With continued expansion, the business would have to face some quarters, perhaps setting up shop at the Progress Center or a new biotechnology park at the Airport Industrial Park in Gainesville.

"That's where we've achieved success: when we've incubated a business," Sherrard said.

The center does not offer a guarantee for the region's dearth of middle-class jobs. The most likely of the high-tech businesses will be those that are generally three reasons for the state's lack of money, lack of management or a complete dearth of the product line.

Business and academic advice will help the companies at the center, Sherrard said. Also, the center's business advisers will help link the companies with capital in local development.

"This will not be the future, and that's what we're here to do: give businesses," Sherrard said.

Sid Martin Biotech: World-Class Sector-Focused Incubation Program



Established 1995



Initial Capital Investment of \$5.5 Million (UF)



16 Active Biotech Companies



32,546 Gross Sq. Ft



\$1.7 Million of Valuable Shared Scientific Equipment



22 Wet labs, 9 Executive Offices

COPELAND PARK

76 Acres

- Alchem Laboratories Corporation
- Amend Surgical
- Lacerta Therapeutics
- National Resilience (FKA Ology Bioservices)

FOUNDATION PARK

20 Acres

- Applied Genetics Technologies Corp.
- Santa Fe College Perry Center for Emerging Technologies

PROGRESS PARK

204 Acres

- 60 burgeoning spinoff companies since 1994
- Brammer Bio acquired by Thermo Fisher Scientific for \$1.7 billion in 2019
- 1,230 total jobs in Progress District

- Alcyone Therapeutics
- AlfaChemInvent
- Applied Food Technologies
- Aptus Biosciences
- Axogen
- BioFrontier
- BioInfoExperts
- Canaery
- CHW
- Curtiss Healthcare
- EriVan Bio
- Eurofins EAG
- PFAME
- Firebird Biomolecular Services
- FLUCEL
- Inspira Therapeutics
- K-Lab Therapeutics
- Lacerta Therapeutics
- Medosome Biotec
- Neobiosis
- NeXTGen Biologics
- Nysno Bio
- Oragenics
- RTI Surgical
- Tear Clear
- ThermoFisher
- UF Innovate | Sid Martin Biotech
- Vet Bio Solutions

Biotech Companies in Alachua's Progress District

UF Innovate | Accelerate @ Sid Martin Biotech



UF Innovate | Accelerate: The Hub Origin Story



4 C's

- Credibility
- Catalyst
- Critical Mass
- Community

Critical Mass

- Phase 1 (2011): 51,866 gross sq. ft. | 50% EDA, 50% UF Funding
- Phase 2 (2018): 45,081 gross sq. ft. | 50% EDA, 50% UF Funding
- Landing spot for promising spin off businesses; OTL co-located within building

Community

- Higher-skill, living wage jobs = Prosperity
- Demolished AGH site
- Foster connections between clients with UF and broader investment community

Catalyst

- Anchors the Innovation District (2 blocks east of UF main campus); Bridge the gap between campus and downtown
- Landing spot for promising spin off businesses; OTL co-located within building

Credibility

- “Synergy” – putting all players in the same building will accelerate ability to create companies
- Resource rich (making it a priority to get startups what they need to succeed)

The Hub: Mixed-Use Incubator in the Heart of the Innovation District



Established 2011, Expanded 2018



Initial Capital Investment of \$30.3 Million including \$16.1 Million (US EDA)



56 Active Residential Clients



96,947 Gross Sq. Ft (Phase 2 Expansion Wing 45,081 Sq. Ft)



Located in a Hub Zone, Opportunity Zone and Innovation District



68 Offices, 28 dry labs, 11 wet labs

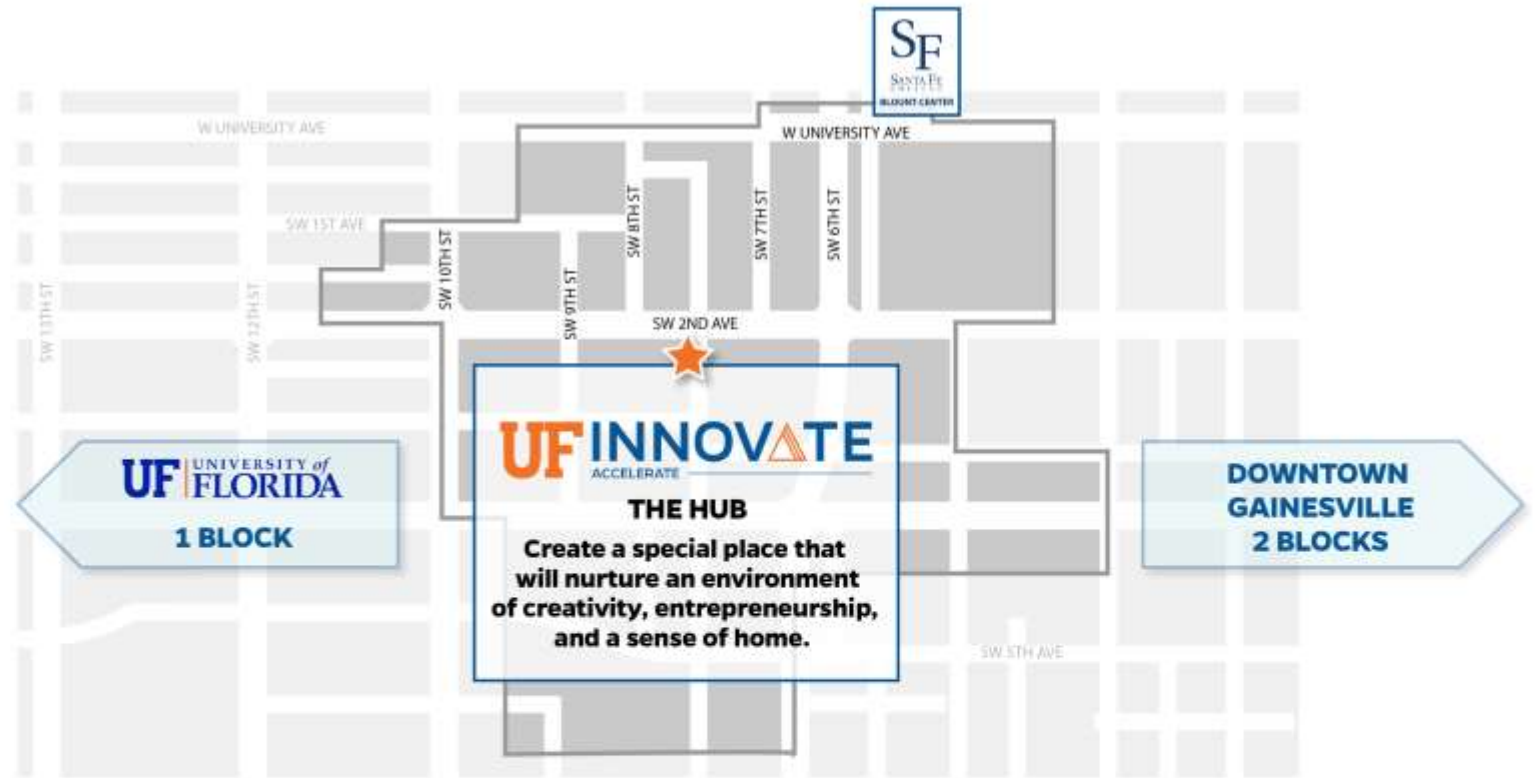


GAINESVILLE INNOVATION DISTRICT



MASTER DEVELOPERS: INNOVATION DEVELOPERS, LLC

A partnership of  CONCEPT COMPANIES &  TRIMARK PROPERTIES



PRINCIPLES & APPROACH

- UMU-2 Zoning (formerly Alachua General Hospital)
- Inclusive and collaborative environment for bringing in new businesses
- Estimated 5.6 million square feet of total development (mix of laboratory, office, residential, retail, and institutional uses)



VISION

Create a technology, science, research-oriented development to both retain and attract intellectual capital within our community.



AMENITIES

- 59 restaurants within 1 mile
- 80+ vibrant businesses located within the District
- 64 acres