

MetroNorth

Cummings

# Life Sciences and Technology Update

News from the life sciences and technology communities north of Boston

January 2024



On Friday, [Arena BioWorks announced its launch](#) as a privately funded, fully independent biomedical institute focused on determining the mechanisms of human disease and advancing new technologies to translate these insights into therapeutics through in-house biotech companies. The new model will bring together academic research and venture-backed drug development under one roof.

Arena's management committee includes world-renowned Harvard University scientist and Broad Institute founder [Stuart Schreiber, Ph.D.](#) as chief executive officer, former co-chair of Bain Capital and award-winning philanthropist [Steve Pagliuca](#) as executive chair, and founder and managing partner of life science venture capital firm Newpath Partners Tom Cahill, M.D., Ph.D. as institute representative.

The announcement has raised concerns about creating a "brain drain" by attracting tenured professors and top researchers away from universities. Read more in [The Boston Globe](#) (subscription required).

Today, [Boston Business Journal reports](#) that Boston University researchers have received an NIH grant to help more students access their undergraduate summer program for brain, medicine, and neuroscience clinical research experience. In an effort to diversify the biomedical workforce, the R25 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke will provide more than \$653,000 over five years to support student scholarships for the [Summer Program in Neuroscience \(SPIN\)](#).

The logo for Boston University, consisting of the words "BOSTON UNIVERSITY" in white, uppercase, serif font, enclosed within a red rectangular border.

## New and Expanding Cummings Clients



The logo for Micro Medical Solutions, featuring a stylized red and white DNA double helix above the words "micro medical" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with "solutions" in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.

Cummings is pleased to welcome [Micro Medical Solutions](#) to 175 New Boston Street, Woburn. The company provides physicians with the minimally invasive tools and technology needed to fight the impact of critical limb ischemia (CLI), to significantly reduce the rate of amputations, to improve clinical outcomes and patient quality of life, and to minimize the financial and human costs associated with the treatment of peripheral artery disease and CLI.

[Greg Sullivan](#) is Micro Medical Solutions' founder and CEO.



# Items of Interest

Congratulations to **Molecular Loop Biosciences, Inc.** (TradeCenter 128, Woburn), an innovator at the forefront of targeted sequencing technologies, which announced in December that it has received a \$1.8 million grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to further its groundbreaking work in the field of multi-pathogen genomics. The grant will support a project to expand access to next-generation sequencing (NGS) for the surveillance of infectious disease pathogens in low- and middle-income countries.

**molecularloop™**

**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**



***"We are excited to continue our mission of democratizing access to NGS technologies for all laboratories, particularly in resource-limited settings."***

**Greg Porreca, Ph.D.**  
CEO and founder  
Molecular Loop

Last week, **Myrobalan Therapeutics** (200 Boston Ave., Medford), announced completion of a \$24 million Series A funding round. The company is focused on developing oral neurorestorative therapies aimed at reversing key pathologies underlying brain dysfunctions and CNS conditions.



**MYROBALAN  
THERAPEUTICS**

***"Our deep understanding of remyelination and neuroinflammation has broad application in high-unmet need CNS diseases. Propelled by our foundational science, strategic chemistry partnership, compelling preclinical data, and strong investors, Myrobalan is in a unique position to advance its neurorestorative candidates into the clinic."***



**Jing Wang, Ph.D.**  
CEO & Co-Founder  
Myrobalan Therapeutics

**MASSBIO**

## 2023 Massachusetts Biopharma Funding and Pipeline Report

**MassBio** recently released its *2023 Biopharma Industry Funding and Pipeline Report*, noting that 2023 was the fourth largest year for VC funding and saw an uptick in M&A activity. The report includes expanded data on VC



investments, IPOs, and M&A, as well as drug pipeline statistics and FDA approvals for 2023. Also of interest: 58 percent of all VC funding went to companies not headquartered in Cambridge (an increase of 7 percentage points over 2022.) [Read the report.](#)



MassBio CEO and president Kendalle Burlin-O'Connell said, "It is incredible to see local companies continue to attract substantial VC funding, while M&A activity has increased to fill the gap left by the lack of IPOs. Our unmatched density of biotech startups, pharma companies, investors, and academic institutions translates into the delivery of life-changing therapies for patients around the world."

## Gloucester Biotechnology Academy is now placing full-time lab technician interns



Gloucester Biotechnology Academy's certificate program prepares young adults to be lab technicians by teaching them molecular biology, cell culture, and biomanufacturing. Currently, the Academy is confirming internship placements through which its students work in biotech labs throughout Massachusetts, with a particular focus on helping labs find well-trained interns or temp-to-perm hires.



GLoucester MARINE  
GENOMICS INSTITUTE

Academy students receive seven months of hands-on training (600+ bench hours) – plus extensive training in professional/career skills – before starting their internship. According to the Academy, many companies are eager to hire their Academy interns; however, a permanent position is not required to host an intern. Notably, the MA Life Sciences Center's [Internship Challenge program](#) provides **reimbursement of intern compensation** to research labs and companies with 100 or fewer employees in Massachusetts.

Academy internships take place this spring (March – May) and summer (June – Aug); dates are flexible. If this might benefit your company, please contact Laura Richane, the Academy's director of partnerships, at [laura.richane@gmgi.org](mailto:laura.richane@gmgi.org).





**QSM Diagnostics** (3 Gill Street, Woburn), a diagnostic device company that helps veterinarians improve their diagnoses and treatment plans to provide better animal care and pet owner satisfaction, announced earlier this month that it has signed a distribution agreement with **MWI Animal Health** (MWI), a leading provider of technology solutions and services for veterinary practices, and part of **Cencora** (formerly AmerisourceBergen). MWI will inventory, market, and promote the QSM Otter and FetchDx products throughout the United States.

## Networking & Events

Straight from the JP Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco, **MassBio** panelists will report what they heard at the premier healthcare symposium, especially what was said between the soundbites and headlines. What does the new year hold for companies looking to launch or grow, for patients looking for new breakthroughs in drug development, and for the ongoing specter of government price controls? Will headwinds turn to tailwinds?

Monday, January 22, 4:00 - 6:30 PM,  
MassBioHub, 700 Technology Square,  
Cambridge. [Register](#).

# MASSBIO



## MassNextGen Announcement Event

Join us to celebrate the next generation of life sciences entrepreneurs

Hosted by  
Anchor Platinum Sponsor:

**Takeda**

**Massachusetts**  
LIFE SCIENCES CENTER



In partnership with Takeda, **Massachusetts Life Sciences Center** invites you to join in celebrating the sixth cohort of awardees from the Massachusetts Next Generation Initiative (MassNextGen). **MassNextGen** is a public-private partnership to support underrepresented entrepreneurs in the Massachusetts life sciences ecosystem.

Wednesday, January 24, 3:00 PM at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, 650 East Kendall Street, Cambridge. [Register](#).

Join **North Shore Technology Council** for an informative



**NORTH SHORE TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

Presents

**IP IS NOT JUST PATENTS:**  
 USING COPYRIGHT, TRADEMARK, AND TRADE SECRET PROTECTION TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR COMPANY

THURSDAY January 25 Noon to 1 PM  
 Via Zoom

REGISTER AT  
[NSTC.ORG/EVENTS](http://NSTC.ORG/EVENTS)

Louise Kennedy  
 Founding Partner

**WEST HILL TECHNOLOGY COUNSEL**



program with **West Hill Technology Counsel** (900 Cummings Center, Beverly). Founding attorney Louise Kennedy will discuss intellectual property rights, and the use of copyright, trademark, and trade secret protection to increase the value of your company.

Thursday, January 25, noon - 1:00 PM, via Zoom. Free. [Register.](#)

# Campus Updates

## 16,600 SF Lab Available in Medford Near Tufts



Join a thriving community of next-generation life sciences companies just outside Boston/Cambridge. Cummings' Boston Avenue innovation campus offers move-in ready lab space with easy highway access, free covered parking, and MBTA service—all at a fraction of the cost of leasing downtown.



**Lab features include:**

- 95 tons of make-up air and 22 tons of recirculating air
- 300 LF of benchwork
- Five fume hoods - (1) 4', (2) 6', and (2) 8'
- Refrigeration/freezer room with wall-mounted AC units and electrical receptacles wired to a 125-kW standby natural gas generator
- Process piping distribution for compressed air and vacuum air
- RO/DI purified water system with distribution piping
- Central pH adjustment system for lab wastewater
- Two material storage or waste rooms

[View Floor Plan](#)

Interested? Call or text John Halsey at 781-983-2214 or email [sales@cummings.com](mailto:sales@cummings.com).

## Share Your News



We welcome your feedback on this newsletter and invite readers to share company news, personnel changes, product launches, funding updates, events, and more. Contact Sue Howland, client engagement manager, at [svh@cummings.com](mailto:svh@cummings.com) to offer your news for upcoming newsletters. We look forward to hearing from you.

Keep up with news from the Cummings community by following us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



Cummings Properties, LLC | 200 West Cummings Park, Woburn, MA 01801

[Unsubscribe group@cummings.com](mailto:unsubscribe_group@cummings.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [group@cummings.com](mailto:group@cummings.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!