

WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL INNOVATION CENTERS OF THE UMASS LIFE SCIENCES TASK FORCE

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LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

- **Governor's LS Initiative** – series of regional innovation centers focused on connecting industry and academia (both capital and operating support) in strategic life sciences areas
- **Potential Legislative Proposals** – series of regional innovation centers, potentially focused on staffing for linking regional resources in support of the life sciences
- **Potential UMASS Role** – serve as base for each of the regional centers with potential for networking across Centers

POTENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL INNOVATION CENTERS

Needs and Opportunities	Ways to Address through Governor's Initiative	Immediate Actions and Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity to differing developmental stages – regional differences of ecosystems in 1) Eastern MA and 2) Central, and 3) South Coast & Western Regions • Better job convening industry and academia –overcome cultural gap – “co-localize” • Less need for focus on most basic research • Access to shared facilities and shared banks of resources – tissues, equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a clear regional locus first • Competitive review awards process by industry, VCs, academics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strong academic core – Medical/clinical – Prospect of business & commercialization – Private-sector matching – Science and business • Limit bureaucracy, don't put IP at risk in collaboration • Focus on equipment and capability as opposed to only physical “space” 	<p>For innovation Centers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility where there isn't yet, may be virtual or physical • Critical equipment, people and services shared • Translational research, via a healthy competitive process to test viability • Money spent to become intellectual locus • Local governments proof of capability and resources

POTENTIAL MODELS

- **Bio-Manufacturing Center (Lowell, Dartmouth)** – initiative to help develop the bio-manufacturing industry in Mass. thru programs of process development, scale-up, education and training, applied research and networking.
- **Mass Medical Device Development Center – M2D2 (Lowell, Worcester)** – initiative to help promote the development of new medical device technologies by entrepreneurs and small firms thru prototyping, clinical trial services, business assistance, incubator space, etc.
- **Key Characteristics** – developed in response to clearly identified industry needs and interests ... very strong university-industry links ... focused on translational (not basic) research and commercial applications ... shared facilities and resources ... support from local govt/life sciences community ... requires capital \$ and \$1-3 M annual support.

OTHER CAMPUS POSSIBILITIES

- **Amherst** – building off Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (partnership with BayState Medical in Springfield) ... discussing incubator/tech park in Springfield, shared space with industry on campus
- **Boston** – built around new Venture Development Center ... may include a business “accelerator” focused on start-ups ... potential link with Harvard teaching hospitals
- **Worcester** – in addition to stem cell bank/registry and advanced therapeutics cluster, they may be a concept for a center with potential links with MBI and WPI

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

- Networking among Centers to Promote Collaboration and Sharing of Resources -- potential role for Mass Tech Transfer Center in facilitating linkages, sharing of facilities/equipment and the like
- Desire to Ensure Workforce Component to each Center – per recommendation from Life Sciences Talent Summit