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ASIA EDITION

Cincinnati Is Accelerating the Next Wave of Life Sciences Innovation Through Collaboration

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At BIO International Convention 2026, Andrea Enders, Vice President, Business Development at REDI Cincinnati, discusses how world-class research institutions, industry-academic partnerships, a growing talent pipeline and strengths in biomanufacturing, precision medicine and clinical research are reinforcing Cincinnati's position as one of the United States' leading life sciences ecosystems.



Cincinnati's life sciences ecosystem is gaining momentum through a unique combination of scientific excellence, collaborative innovation and advanced manufacturing capabilities. **Speaking with BioSpectrum Asia during BIO 2026 in San Diego, Andrea Enders, Vice President, Business Development at REDI Cincinnati,** explains how the region's integrated research, healthcare and industry network is accelerating discoveries, attracting investment and strengthening Cincinnati's position as a premier destination for biopharmaceutical innovation, precision medicine and next-generation healthcare technologies.

Cincinnati has developed a strong reputation across healthcare and medical innovation. What factors are contributing to this growth?

Cincinnati is a proven life sciences hub with the scale, specialization and credibility to support long-term industry growth. The region’s ecosystem spans the full life sciences value chain, with strengths in research, clinical trials, advanced manufacturing and commercialization. Anchored by nationally recognized healthcare and research institutions, including a top-ranked pediatric medical center with more than 1.4 million square feet of facilities and 1,000 researchers**,** Cincinnati has the depth to translate discovery into real-world patient impact.

The region’s talent pipeline further strengthens its competitive position, with the University of Cincinnati reaching 54,000 incoming students and continuing to grow its STEM graduate base. Cincinnati’s life sciences sector has seen strong momentum, with 15% job growth from 2019 to 2024, fueled by collaboration among industry, healthcare and academia. This alignment creates a lower-risk, high-opportunity environment where companies can access talent, research capabilities and partnerships needed to innovate, scale and succeed.

At the center of that success are nationally recognized institutions like Cincinnati Children's and the University of Cincinnati, a Tier 1 research university, which are conducting groundbreaking research and developing the next generation of healthcare and life sciences talent. Through the Cincinnati Innovation District®, these organizations are working alongside industry, startups and investors to accelerate the path from discovery to commercialization.

How are industry-academic collaborations shaping the region's life sciences ecosystem?

The University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital combined produce more than $450M per year in research. Major institutions and organizations including the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and JobsOhio are collaborating and investing in research and programs for America's health.

The Cincinnati region has the talent to attract biohealth operations, graduating over 3,400 engineering graduates annually, a value that expands to more than 6,000 when considering the Dayton MSA is within Cincinnati's laborshed. Additionally, the region has a high concentration of skilled manufacturing technicians from several four-year colleges/universities and community and technical colleges.

In 2025, WalletHub listed the Cincinnati region as the #16 best city for STEM jobs based on professional opportunities, STEM-friendliness and quality of life, even ranking ahead of Washington, D.C., Columbus, Chicago and Philadelphia.

What opportunities exist in biomanufacturing, imaging and precision medicine within the region?

The Cincinnati region is well positioned to capitalize on growth opportunities in biomanufacturing, imaging and precision medicine thanks to its strong foundation of research, healthcare expertise and advanced manufacturing capabilities. The region's life sciences ecosystem supports the full continuum from discovery and development to clinical validation and commercial-scale production, creating opportunities for companies developing next-generation therapies, diagnostics and medical technologies.

In biomanufacturing, the region offers a skilled workforce, established manufacturing expertise and specialized training programs that support the production of biologics, cell and gene therapies and other advanced healthcare products. In medical imaging and diagnostics, researchers and healthcare providers are advancing technologies that improve disease detection, treatment planning and patient outcomes. Precision medicine continues to gain momentum through the region's strengths in genomics, data analytics and clinical research, enabling more personalized approaches to healthcare. Combined with strong industry-academic partnerships and access to world-class research institutions, these capabilities position the Cincinnati region as a growing center for innovation across some of the most promising areas of modern medicine.

What differentiates Cincinnati from other U.S. life sciences hubs competing for investment?

What differentiates Cincinnati from other U.S. life sciences hubs is the combination of world-class research assets, a highly collaborative ecosystem and a cost-effective environment for growth. Companies can access leading research institutions, nationally recognized healthcare providers and a robust network of industry partners without the high costs often associated with larger coastal markets.

The region also offers a complete life sciences value chain, supporting companies from research and development through clinical trials, manufacturing and commercialization. Strong partnerships among academia, healthcare systems, industry and economic development organizations create a culture of collaboration that helps accelerate innovation and business growth.

The region also benefits from a robust life sciences ecosystem that supports companies at every stage of growth, from research and clinical trials to advanced manufacturing and distribution. Combined talent development partnerships with Ohio Life Sciences and JobsOhio creating the cGMP, or (Current Good Manufacturing Practice) cGMP bootcamp, specifically in partnership with Resilience.

Which technology and healthcare sectors are likely to drive the next phase of regional growth?

Cincinnati's life sciences growth is being fueled by a diverse mix of company expansions, innovation and strategic partnerships across clinical research, biomanufacturing, medical devices, imaging and drug delivery. Medpace has expanded its global clinical research operations with a major investment creating 1,500 new jobs, while Resilience selected the Cincinnati region for its headquarters relocation and continued expansion of advanced biomanufacturing operations. GE HealthCare's MRI research and development collaboration with the University of Cincinnati, (UC Health) and Cincinnati

Children's continues to strengthen the region's research ecosystem through investments in innovation space and non-laboratory research operations.

The region is also home to high-growth companies developing the future of medicine. Enable Injections is advancing at-home drug delivery technology through its wearable enFuse® platform, while AtriCure continues expanding its medical device manufacturing and headquarters operations, adding jobs and investment in the region. Together, these companies demonstrate the strength of Cincinnati's life sciences ecosystem and the power of collaboration among industry, academia, healthcare and economic development partners to accelerate innovation and growth.