

# *lifescience:*

a Southwest  
Florida Industry



## Adding Life to Life Sciences

As the life sciences industry continues to thrive and grow in Southwest Florida, new evidence points to the region as a viable frontier for the leading biomedical technology sector.

With boundless entrepreneurial opportunities, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and an abundant and growing skilled labor supply, it's only natural that more and more life science companies are building their future on Southwest Florida's shores.

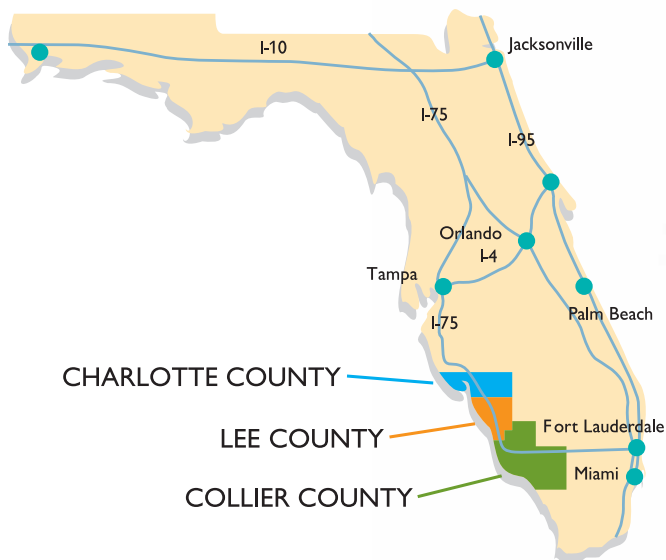
Add more than 80 miles of beautiful Gulf beaches under brilliant Florida skies, and you can understand why Money magazine named the area one of the best places to live in America. It's a natural attraction that's hard to resist.



## Encouraging Innovation



Southwest Florida's emerging life science industry benefits from a unique community that encourages innovation and fosters high wage job creation. The leading biomedical technology sectors here include genetic testing, surgical and medical instruments and pharmaceuticals. In addition, BioFlorida serves as a uniting force among the academic, business, research and government sectors to accelerate the growth of the industry. Higher education institutions such as Florida Gulf Coast University are leading the way for Southwest Florida's future growth through biotechnology programs.





## Building Futures

### Workforce

The quality and growth of Southwest Florida's labor force, bolstered by Florida's status as a right-to-work state, is a major draw for businesses considering a Southwest Florida location. The area is consistently ranked as one of the nation's job growth leaders by Forbes magazine. New residents are attracted by an outstanding quality of life and dynamic job opportunities. The 18-24 year old population (those available to enter the workforce) is growing at a faster rate than that of the state and the nation. The rapid population growth provides an available, underemployed labor force not reflected in any unemployment statistics, providing businesses with new employment candidates every day.



## Education

Southwest Florida's higher education institutions are numerous. Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), a dynamic and comprehensive state university, is ideally situated within two miles of I-75 and Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers. Opened in 1997, FGCU has positioned itself to accelerate the growth of life sciences in Southwest Florida, with its growing biotechnology and engineering programs, its firm commitment to generating highly qualified graduates for the workforce and for graduate programs, and for providing an intellectual environment to grow critical thinking, discovery and innovation. Academic programs are designed to teach quantitative sciences and math with collaborative learning, guided-inquiry laboratories, and undergraduate research training.

The university offers more than 55 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, including biotechnology. This program is one of the few Bachelor of Science degree programs in biotechnology in the U.S. Its major focus is to generate the most capable biotechnologists for the workforce – through a unique combination of scientific and research training and skill sets that enable the transition of scientific discovery to a business context.

The Biotechnology Program, FGCU College of Business and local biotechnology companies expose students to the real-world aspects of biotechnology including formal training in scientific entrepreneurship.

The U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering at Florida Gulf Coast University is committed to becoming an internationally recognized model for excellence in interdisciplinary engineering education. The mission is to combine exceptional faculty with motivated, bright students to create excellent educations in selected engineering disciplines. This synthesis occurs in a business-oriented educational environment that values diversity, integrity, and collaboration.

The outstanding programs are supported by dedicated staff and enabled by the resources needed to excel. The program delivers engineers and community leaders with superior technical competence and management skills to meet the engineering challenges of Southwest Florida. Three majors leading toward the Bachelor of Science degree are offered. They include Bioengineering, Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering. These degree programs are designed to support the Southwest Florida business community, and all students are required to participate in hands-on working opportunities such as internships to complete their degree. Many will go on to live and pursue professional engineering careers in Southwest Florida and beyond. The program is also flexible enough to accommodate local working professionals who wish to continue their education at FGCU.



## Biotech Success Stories

### **Arthrex, Inc. – Naples, FL**

Since 1984, the privately held corporation Arthrex has been providing the finest quality products and educational services to meet the specialized needs of orthopedic surgeons and their patients. New product innovation in arthroscopic surgery is the heart and soul of Arthrex, which has developed over 2,000 products distributed throughout the U.S. and in over 60 countries worldwide. The company's goal is to make technically demanding surgical procedures easier, safer and reproducible.

### **Ecological Laboratories, Inc. – Cape Coral, FL**

Ecological Laboratories specializes in the development of microbial products for the natural treatment of environmental problems associated with water use and the recycling of organic matter. Ecological Laboratories products are used in the treatment of industrial and municipal wastewaters, water gardens, aquaculture systems (fish and shrimp farms), lakes, ponds, aquariums, septic tanks, portable toilets, compost piles, animal waste containment lagoons, grease traps and organic stains and odors in carpets and on hard surfaces.

### **EnVont, LLC – Naples, FL**

EnVont, LLC is a leading innovator of material-based nanotechnology, developing proprietary devices and coatings for the medical and biotech industries. Its nanocoatings and nanodispersions, made with elemental building blocks, are designed to exhibit new and significantly improved physical, flexural, chemical and structural properties. EnVont has extensive experience in the molding and development of nanocomposite plastic, metal and ceramic parts – designing, developing and manufacturing advanced medical devices and coating materials.

### **Enzymedica, Inc. – Port Charlotte, FL**

Established in 1998, Enzymedica is dedicated to providing individuals with superior quality supplemental enzymes. The company is recognized as the best selling brand of enzymes in the natural foods industry. In its continued efforts to educate consumers and retailers on the benefits of enzymes in promoting optimal health, Enzymedica places high importance on providing well-researched and well-documented information. This priority has led to research that supports innovative formulations that address a wide variety of health concerns.

### **Greystone Pharmaceuticals, Inc. – Fort Myers, FL**

Greystone Pharmaceuticals, Inc. was founded in 1996 as a biomedical research and development company specializing in medical devices and pharmaceutical products used in the management of diabetes and other chronic diseases. In 2006, the company relocated its leadership team to Fort Myers. Today the company has FDA and CE approval on their wound care products, including those for diabetic foot ulcers. On the device side, Greystone is developing remote patient monitoring systems for tracking the condition of chronically ill patients in their homes.

### **Inovo, Inc. – Naples, FL**

Inovo is one of the world's largest manufacturers of oxygen regulators and conserving devices. The company has served the home healthcare, fire rescue EMS and hospital markets since 1997. Inovo holds ISO 13485 certification, a standard specifically for medical devices. Manufacturing all of its products in an integrated CNC machining and assembly operation, Inovo's machinery includes multi-axis machining centers combined with the latest equipment for testing and quality control.

### **IsoLux, LLC – Naples, FL**

Through a combination of technical excellence, superior quality, and innovative manufacturing IsoLux is able to offer their customers a complete line of fiber optic illumination technologies to provide outstanding care for the patient. Serving the medical, dental and veterinarian (large animals) markets, IsoLux specializes in xenon light source illuminators and medical video camera systems that use premium CeraLux lamps for a high-intensity white light. IsoLux Illuminators render true tissue color, enabling users clarity of retinal vision.

### **McMillan Optical Company – Port Charlotte, FL**

Since 1954, McMillan Optical Company has dedicated itself to providing reticles, lenses, face plates, wedges, mirrors, rods, achromats and bars to the biomedical, electronics, archery, fire control and aerospace industries. Located in Port Charlotte for more than 25 years, the company has customized thousands of fabricated lenses and produces them in various quantities, from single units to mass production. McMillan Optical is committed to developing, producing and delivering quality solutions quickly to help meet the demand of innovation.

### **NeoGenomics, Inc. – Fort Myers, FL**

NeoGenomics, Inc. is a research and genetic testing company focusing on diseases in women and prenatals. A pioneer in the field of developing new and innovative testing for non-invasive prenatal genetic diagnosis, NeoGenomics' goal is to develop the world's first genetic/diagnostics laboratory, offering some of the most innovative and cutting-edge technologies in cellular and molecular biology, oncogenomics and proteomics. NeoGenomics plans to develop one of the largest databases of female phenotypic and genetic information in the world.

### **Tigris Pharmaceuticals, Inc. – Bonita Springs, FL**

Based in Bonita Springs, Florida, Tigris Pharmaceuticals is a privately held biopharmaceutical company that acquires the rights to commercially develop therapeutic technologies to address unmet medical needs. Focusing on oncology therapeutics, the company has expertise in developing breakthrough products/technologies in all stages of development, including pre-clinical and early- and late-stage clinical development. Its emphasis is on novel molecules, mechanisms of action and/or delivery systems, and it relies on strategic relationships with top cancer research and operational centers of excellence.





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