

Pennsylvania's Life Sciences Ecosystem Responds to COVID-19 Outbreak

"The recent outbreak of COVID-19 is a stark reminder of the far-reaching affects a novel, infectious disease can have on communities throughout the world. Though its prevalence in the United States is still low, it continues to spread to all but one of seven continents. Thankfully, Pennsylvania's life sciences community is committed to doing everything in its power to curb this outbreak. We will continue to encourage our member organizations to work collaboratively with one another, and with the federal government to address this significant public health concern."

– Chris Molineaux, President & CEO, Life Sciences Pennsylvania

As a statewide trade association, Life Sciences Pennsylvania represents more than 850 member organizations, including small biotech companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, academic research institutions, medical device and diagnostic makers, patient advocacy organizations, and myriad service providers related to the development of groundbreaking therapies and cures. Our members are researching and developing the next generation of medicines, devices and treatments for patients. As an organization we are committed to:

- **Supporting robust biomedical research** – as we encounter novel diseases, especially those that are not yet well understood, we will continue to advocate for the basic research funding that help scientists better understand the epidemiology
- **Incentivizing innovation** – we will continue to advocate for policies that encourage research to move from the lab to the patient, which is critical to providing novel treatments for infectious diseases
- **Bolstering biosecurity** – the U.S. health care system faces domestic and foreign biological threats, from varied strains of influenza to emerging infectious diseases, and it is critical that we have the necessary public-private partnerships (i.e. Biomedical Advance Research and Development Authority – BARDA) in place to protect our national security and public health

Life Sciences Pennsylvania has several member organizations committed to better understanding COVID-19, and developing vaccines, and other medicines, to eradicate this disease. Several of these members and their efforts are listed below:

[**Sanofi**](#) (Swiftwater, PA) – The global vaccines business unit, Sanofi Pasteur, is collaborating with the Biomedical Advance Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to leverage previous work on a SARS vaccine that may prove useful in battling COVID-19.

[**Inovio Pharmaceuticals**](#) (Plymouth Meeting, PA) – Using its DNA-based medicine platform, Inovio has received \$9 million from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and partnered with Beijing Advaccine to begin early-stage testing of a vaccine for COVID-19.

[**Wistar Institute**](#) (Philadelphia, PA) – The Wistar Institute, in collaboration with Inovio Pharmaceuticals and with funding from CEPI, will work as part of a team to develop a vaccine for COVID-19.

[**GSK**](#) (Philadelphia, PA) – GlaxoSmithKline is part of collaborative effort with CEPI through which it has made its pandemic vaccine adjuvant technology available to CEPI funded entities. This will help enhance the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.

[**University of Pittsburgh**](#) (Pittsburgh, PA) – The University of Pittsburgh is obtaining samples of COVID-19 to begin development of a vaccine against the disease.

[**Janssen**](#) (Horsham, PA) – Johnson & Johnson, through its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies, has begun collaboration with BARDA to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 and explore previous antiviral medicines that may target this novel disease.

For more information on their work, please click on the member name in **bold** above.