

PA Biotechnology Center of Bucks County

Press points

The Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center of Bucks County is an invaluable asset for Buck County and the entire Southeastern region of Pennsylvania.

Direct economic impacts. The Biotechnology Center plays an important role in job creation and overall economic growth in the Bucks County area.

- Many new jobs created are through the facility.
 - o It currently employs over 260 high-skill researchers and staff members.
 - o 55 new jobs since January 2012.
- The facility attracts a significant amount of research funding.
 - o Total funding for research done in the center has reached \$70 Million this year.
- The facility gives back to the community by training the next generation of medical professionals.
 - o The Apprentice Program gives recent college graduates training and mentoring to prepare them for careers in graduate school or research.
 - o A competitive College and High School Internship program prepares students for college-level work in life sciences.

Indirect economic impacts: The economic impact to the broader region extends beyond the direct jobs created to include numerous downstream economic impacts.

- The facility's activities are responsible for creating 600+ jobs in the local economy since 2006, according to 2009 Economic Impact Study.
- The facility cements Pennsylvania's status as an industry leader in biotechnology and life sciences.
 - o The Natural Products Library is a one-of-a-kind resource for the development of the next generation of drugs and therapies. Donated by Merck, it attracts researchers from around the world.
- The facility houses a small business incubator, helping 34 startup companies transform research into marketable products for the population.

Health benefits: The drugs and therapies created through the Center contribute to the health and well-being of many Pennsylvanians.

- The facility is instrumental in developing new drugs and therapies.
 - o 8 new medical patents have filed as result of research at the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research (IHVR).
 - o New discoveries are just beginning to enter the market, including a Hepatocellular carcinoma therapy, new urine screening for colorectal cancer, and a GI distress drug that is entering Phase III trials.
- The IHVR is the definitive source of Hepatitis B research. It is instrumental in advancing toward more effective therapies for the disease.