



British Columbia's Life Sciences Cluster

Characterized by primarily home-grown companies, spun out of BC's world-class research institutions such as the University of British Columbia and an enabling environment, a strong industry has emerged – an industry that also benefits from its Pacific Rim location that puts it in easy reach of life sciences collaborators and sources of venture capital in Washington State and California; and partners in Australia, Japan, and throughout Asia.

Today, the life sciences industry in British Columbia:

- includes approximately 150 biopharmaceutical and medical device companies;
- employs over 5,000 people, including approximately 2,000 individuals at public sector research institutions;
- contributes an estimated \$630 million to the provincial GDP annually.
- is home to three of the first commercially-successful biopharmaceutical companies – QLT Inc., Angiotech Pharmaceuticals and Aspreva Pharmaceuticals (now Vifor Pharma) – each of which were among the first life sciences companies in the world to achieve profitability.

British Columbia is where the world's best come to partner. The international partners with which BC companies have successfully collaborated to date include virtually all of top global companies. Examples of such partnerships include QLT and Novartis, Angiotech and Boston Scientific, Cardiome and Astellas, Aspreva and Roche, Response Biomedical and 3M, and Xenon and Roche, Cardiome and Merck, and Novartis, Merck and Takeda.

What you'll find in British Columbia

World-class research, such as that conducted at our numerous Centres of Excellence, including:

- BC Cancer Agency
- Brain Research Centre, UBC
- Prostate Centre, VGH
- Blood Research Centre, UBC
- Centre of Excellence for HIV/AIDS, St. Paul's Hospital
- Centre for Molecular Medicine & Therapeutics, UBC
- Providence Heart & Lung Institute, St. Paul's Hospital
- The Centre for Drug Research and Development
- TRIUMF: Canada's National Laboratory for Particle and Nuclear Physics & Medicine
- Genome Sciences Centre

In summary, with its proven strategy, a successful track record and an unparalleled quality of life, it's easy to see why the global biopharmaceutical sector is turning its attention to British Columbia.