SPECIAL REPORT

World-Class Researchers + Unprecedented Collaboration = Profound Results

He's Got His Mind Set On a Cure

When it comes to discovering the cause of problems in the brain, Dr. Dietrich Stephan has neurogenetics on his mind.

Working in Harmony

Taking note of key collaborations in Greater Phoenix.
Converging Resources Propel Arizona’s Biosciences

The fusion of intellectual talent, state-of-the-art facilities, public-private partnerships and unparalleled collaboration make Arizona a force to be reckoned with in the biosciences.

"I don't know of any other area of the country that has come as far as Arizona in the last three years," said Jon McGuire, president and CEO of the Arizona Bioindustry Association. "We have made greater gains and built more momentum than I ever thought we would in this short period of time."

Three business-executive groups from Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson recently formed the nonprofit Science Foundation Arizona. It is designed to bring sustainable resources to the table to help catalyze the state’s biosciences nationally and internationally, according to Greater Phoenix Leadership President R. Thomas Browning.

Injecting capital

Arizona’s Legislature is considering a bill that would provide $650 million over five years to support bioscience research and development. If approved, it will leverage $1.6 billion in recently announced matching funds from the Arizona-based Steward Charitable Group.

Other recent private investments include:
- $50 million from the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust for 10 endowed chairs to attract the world’s leading scientists pursuing personalized medicine.
- $7.5 million from the Steward Foundation to support biomedical research at Scottsdale Healthcare/TGen and the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center.

John Carpent, Ph.D.
Director of TGen’s Integrated Cancer Genomics Division
Pursuing cancer gene discoveries using high-throughput technologies.

Ramu Jung, Ph.D.
Co-director of the Center for Adoption Neural Systems at BioDesign Institute
Creating intelligent devices to improve light for people with certain disabilities.

Johanna Wolford, Ph.D.
Leads TGen's Diabetes & Obesity Research Lab
Focusing on genetic variants that increase susceptibility to type 2 diabetes and related complications.

Yung Chang
Associate professor in the Center for Glycobiology and Technology at BioDesign Institute
Exploring how defects in the immune system can lead to diseases such as cancer.

Susana Martinez-Conde, Ph.D.
Principal investigator in the Laboratory of Visual Neuroscience at Barrow Neurological Institute
Conducting the first study of the visual process that involves texture “filling in” in the brain using imaging techniques.

Jie Wu, M.D., Ph.D.
Principal investigator in Neuronal Physiology Research at Barrow Neurological Institute
Investigating the role of GABA receptors in epilepsy.