



Ramp Helps New Life Science Entrepreneurs Chart a Course for Growth

Startups Take Advantage of Free Program's Expert Presenters

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PHILADELPHIA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Thirty new life science entrepreneurs in the Greater Philadelphia region are getting a business-building boost thanks to a free program offered by BioAdvance, the Biotechnology Greenhouse of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and the University City Science Center. Entrepreneur OnRamp puts the emerging entrepreneurs together with regional and national experts to discuss topics that are critical to new startups' success including: accessing funding, building strong teams and advancing technologies. The daylong program, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 27 at the University City Science Center, was developed with additional program support from Wharton Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and with funding from We Work for Health.

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“Through Entrepreneur OnRamp we are just beginning to address the deep talent pool available for new entrepreneurial endeavors in the Greater Philadelphia region,” said Barbara S. Schilberg, managing director and CEO, BioAdvance. “We are pleased to see the diversity of technology represented and we look forward to working with these individuals to help position them for success.”

“Entrepreneurs are playing an increasingly important role in the region’s economy as the pharmaceutical landscape continues to contract and change,” said Stephen S. Tang, Ph.D., president and CEO of the University City Science Center. “Any time we can support entrepreneurship in the life sciences sector, it’s a win-win, for both the region and the entrepreneurs. We were especially gratified to see the number of ex-pharmaceutical employees among the registrants. It’s crucial to our region to keep this knowledge here.”

Entrepreneur OnRamp has received support from organizations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. They include: Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Bio NJ, BioStrategy Partners, Chester County KIZ, Delaware BioScience Association, Delaware County KIZ, Delaware Technology Park, Life Science Career Alliance, New Jersey Technology Council, Pennsylvania Bio, Pennsylvania Center for Drug Discovery, Select Greater Philadelphia and the University City KIZ. Please note that registration for this event is now closed.

About BioAdvance

Since its first investments in 2003, BioAdvance has committed \$17.5 million to 28 life sciences companies and 14 pre-seed projects. BioAdvance investments have enabled its portfolio companies to leverage more than \$1 billion in subsequent capital into the region from private equity, grants, collaborations and M&A activity. Six companies have been acquired including Acuity Pharmaceuticals, Alteris Therapeutics and Protez Pharmaceuticals. BioAdvance portfolio companies are working to develop products to treat health problems such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, diabetes, head trauma and infectious diseases. For more information visit www.bioadvance.com.

About The Science Center

The University City Science Center accelerates technology commercialization, regional economic development, and the market availability of life-enhancing scientific breakthroughs by bringing together innovations, scientists, entrepreneurs, funding, laboratory facilities, and business services. Established in 1963 and headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, the Science Center was the first, and remains the largest, urban research park in the United States. Graduate organizations and current residents of the University City Science Center's Port business incubators have created more than 15,000 jobs that remain in the Greater Philadelphia region today and contribute more than \$9 billion to the regional economy annually. For more information about the Science Center, go to www.sciencecenter.org.

About Wharton SBDC

The Wharton SBDC was founded in 1980 and is now part of the Sol C. Snider Entrepreneurial Research Center of the Wharton Entrepreneurial Programs - the first and widely acknowledged as one of the most influential entrepreneurial centers in a business school. Our mission is to aid small businesses in the Greater Philadelphia region to start, grow and prosper and to enhance the education of Wharton students. The Wharton SBDC serves over 600 businesses with consulting and 1500 with workshops annually - over 25,000 since its founding in 1980. The Wharton SBDC has developed a unique and highly effective "teaching hospital" model for service delivery to leverage the students, faculty and staff of the Wharton School and partner with professionals and leading organizations including private equity funds and several leading strategic consulting firms, including McKinsey and BCG.

About We Work for Health

We Work for Health is a grassroots initiative that unites health consumers, biopharmaceutical company employees, vendors, suppliers and other business, academic and community partners to demonstrate how these diverse groups are vital to the socioeconomic climate and provide shared benefits and a better quality of life to all. For more information about the initiative, please visit www.weworkforhealth.org.

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