

Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology (CERHB)

The Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology (CERHB) was established in 2003. Our mission is to stimulate promising research and facilitate commercialization of technologies that will provide treatments and cures for human diseases, as well as create new companies and high wage jobs for Florida. Our activities encompass education, translational research, and biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Located in Alachua's Progress Corporate Park, our Research and Education Center promotes and conducts training programs and fosters regenerative health research. Our state-of-the-art biopharmaceutical manufacturing and testing services facility, Florida Biologix®, provides a broad range of drug development services.

The University of Florida is a premier research institution, attracting \$494M in research funding for the 2004-05 fiscal year, with the Health Science Center receiving \$257M of this funding to support research in the medical and life sciences. Technology transfer income at UF hit an all-time high at \$40.3 million. Discoveries in the basic health sciences have the potential to translate into new medical treatments. Currently, it costs nearly one billion dollars to turn a research discovery into a commercial medicine, due in large part to the expense of clinical trials, and drug manufacturing and testing that satisfy federal regulations. Of the products tested in Phase I human clinical trials, 45% graduate to Phase II, 10% move to Phase III, and only 5% are commercialized. Translational research is focused on transitioning the innovations discovered in the laboratory into the clinic, where safety and efficacy can be evaluated. The CERHB facilitates translational research by providing expertise and infrastructure to investigators at the University of Florida, local start-up companies, and other universities, research institutions, and companies in the Southeast. The CERHB is playing an integral role in developing the biotechnology cluster in Florida by fostering new company formation, existing company expansion, and attracting outside companies to the region.