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Press Release: Biohubx joins Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation (API) to expand life sciences business impact

Today, we are announcing that Calgary-based Biohubx has joined with Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation (API) as part of an investment from the Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (OCIF) to strengthen Calgary's life sciences ecosystem by sustaining and expanding one of the sector's few commercialization assets.

Launched in 2021 as a not-for-profit organization, Biohubx served companies scaling or expanding into North American markets in life science and medical device industries. Over 150 small and medium-sized enterprises worked with Biohubx over the past 5 years, 12 of them as tenant members, accessing the 4,700 square foot laboratory and office facility, services and training, resulting in increases in R&D investment of \$4.5 million.

Through a network of 28 like-minded organizations, Biohubx established bridge programs for local companies to partner with international entities, and for international companies to leverage resources and opportunities in Alberta to enter the North American market.

It will be relaunched as an API Incubator, with API taking a direct role in operations and combining Biohubx's infrastructure, staff and physical space with its commercialization model and expertise. The OCIF funding will help expand API's services and capacity across multiple areas in Calgary and help startups and scaleups advance products from lab to market. Biohubx was highly effective in creating both regional and international partnerships.

You can learn more about Biohubx's incubation programming under API [here](#).

"Biohubx blazed the trail in facilitating scale-up of life sciences companies in the Calgary area, and it's now time to grow our impact through joining an organization that has the size and strength to greatly expand the Biohubx mission. Support for life sciences companies is critical as they commercialize their products, technologies and services in order to keep that value in the local ecosystem. We have always viewed our work as an Alberta wide initiative, and integration with API is a fantastic way to continue our work at the next level and focus on businesses in Calgary and across the Province." said Board Chairperson Peter Calverley.

"Biohubx provided a much-needed resource in Calgary to allow scaling biotechnology companies to establish commercial operations within the city", said Bob Shepherd, Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Syantra Inc. "It allowed us to stay local, be efficient with our dollars, and keep strong ties to the university research ecosystem that has driven our business to a point of success. I'm very excited to see the work Biohubx started grow by joining API."

“Having access to a space like Biohubx was instrumental in NanoTess’ growth and commercialization journey. During our time there, we achieved key milestones including regulatory approval, establishing our biomanufacturing processes, certifying our quality management system, building our team, and launching our product in Canada.

Given the impact this space has had on companies like ours, this investment feels like a natural progression. Seeing an organization like API expanding their current presence will only strengthen the support available to innovators and entrepreneurs across the region.

We're excited to see this investment build on an already strong foundation, helping more companies grow, scale, and bring new technologies to market while continuing to strengthen Calgary's innovation ecosystem”, said Megan Leslie, CEO of NanoTess.

“In conjunction with our partners, we look forward to being able to announce the establishment of expanded opportunities for international companies in the near future,” said Elisa Park Kim, Biohubx Executive Director and the new Sr. Manager, Program Activation and Business Development with API. “This activity shows that we can be successful in promoting Alberta as a competitive location for biotech and life sciences companies, and we intend to take full advantage of these wins. Our future as a Canadian hub for life sciences and health companies is looking very bright.”

“There's incredible momentum in Alberta's life sciences sector right now, and with that comes tremendous opportunity. API has worked closely with innovators and entrepreneurs in Calgary for some time, supporting their growth and development, but with limited onsite engagement, we couldn't always bring our full capacity to bear. With the support of OCIF, we're now able to seed an enhanced offering that the sector truly requires as it takes off, enabling made-in-Alberta growth in a big way for Calgary,” said Andrew MacIsaac, CEO, Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation.

ABOUT APPLIED PHARMACEUTICAL INNOVATION

API is one of Canada’s largest not-for-profit life sciences organizations that accelerates the commercialization of life-saving products. Supporting the full development lifecycle from research to manufacturing with in-house expertise, API helps companies bring innovations to market. API strengthens Canada’s ecosystem by fostering local talent, enabling local IP development and securing critical medicines.

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