

ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEW • 2026

Pittsburgh IS the convergence.

Emerging tech + **cutting-edge** clinical research.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

#7 NIH funding (2025)

- \$1B+ life sciences R&D
- #17 U.S. / #26 global utility patents
- Top 10 in 12 health sciences specialties

CARNEGIE MELLON

Birthplace of AI

- 21 Nobel Laureates
- #1 AI + #1 CS grad programs
- Partnerships with Meta, Google, NVIDIA
- AI Science Foundry

Top 25 Life Sci Talent Cluster

CBRE

Talent + **Capital Efficiency**

#1 City for Affordability

REALTOR.COM

UPMC

\$30B integrated health system

- UPMC Enterprises: \$1B+ committed to human health innovation
- 40+ hospitals
- 4M+ insured lives

HIGHMARK + AHN

\$30B integrated health system

- Highmark Ventures: 20+ companies in care delivery + financing
- Healthcare accelerator program + seed funding
- 4th largest Blue, 7M+ insured lives
- 14+ hospitals

PRODUCES PROMINENT INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Already **here**, already scaling.

From the companies you already know to the ones you will; deep manufacturing expertise + global R&D centers.

Data-driven healthcare



Connected medical devices



Advanced therapies



The life sciences **convergence.**

APPLIED AI

AI, at scale.

Anchored by CMU AI Science Foundry +
Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center



ROBOTICS

Embodied AI.

Anchored by CMU Robotics Innovation Center
+ National Robotics Engineering Center



BIOMANUFACTURING

Advanced therapies.

Anchored by Pitt BioForge + ARM Institute
+ ElevateBio



From thesis to **market cap.**

APPLIED AI

ABRIDGE

- \$5.3B valuation
- 250+ health systems
- 100M+ clinical conversations

ROBOTICS

Smith+Nephew

- CORI surgical-robotics platform
- Global R&D center
- 60 regional patents

BIOMANUFACTURING

 **Krystal**

- \$11B market cap*
- #3 best-selling gene therapy globally
- 100K sq ft R&D + manufacturing HQ

**July 2026*

UNIQUE ASSETS + CAPABILITIES DRAW GLOBAL LEADERS

Industry leaders **build here.**

Multinational and breakout companies already operate across all three of Pittsburgh's convergence platforms.

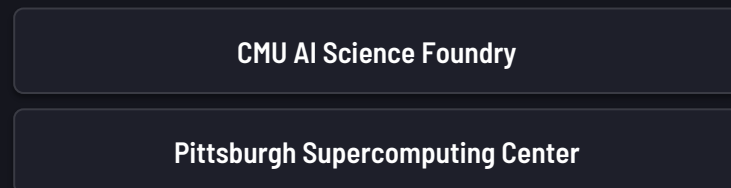
APPLIED AI

Software and AI for care

COMPANIES



ASSETS



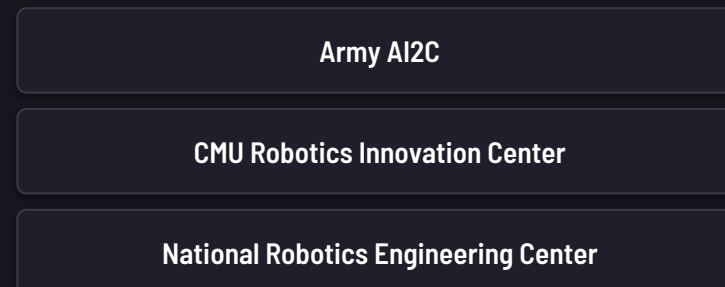
ROBOTICS

Devices and autonomy

COMPANIES



ASSETS



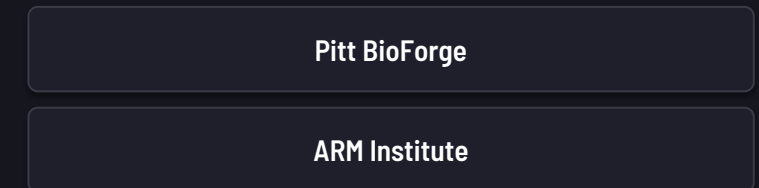
BIOMANUFACTURING

Advanced therapies at scale

COMPANIES



ASSETS



Unique strategic capital **lives here.**

Two payer-provider investors in one region: capital, a real clinical proving ground, and deep sector leadership and expertise.

UPMC Enterprises

Innovation, venture, and commercialization arm of UPMC.

SELECT PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Abridge · Ultromics · Carta Healthcare · Avista Therapeutics

NOTABLE EXITS

- Edifecs → Cotiviti
- Q-Centrix → MRO
- Xealth → Samsung
- Kyruus → RevSpring
- Realyze → Carta Healthcare
- Signallamp → Accuhealth

Highmark Ventures

Venture arm of Highmark focused on digital health.

SELECT PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Sword Health · Free Market Health · Humata Health · Wayspring

NOTABLE EXITS

- Aspire → Anthem
- Contessa → Amedisys
- Babel → AllScripts
- CenseoHealth → New Mountain

Where **founders** build.

The capital and accelerator ecosystem that turns research into companies and economic growth.

INVESTOR + ACCELERATOR

AlphaLab Health

A joint venture between Highmark Health's Allegheny Health Network and Innovation Works. Providing capital, equipment, programming, and clinical mentorship.

UNIVERSITY

Swartz Center, CMU

CMU's entrepreneurship engine, turning deep tech into category-defining companies. CMU also has active institutional and alumni investment networks.

UNIVERSITY

Pitt Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship

OIE handles hundreds of technology disclosures each year and Pitt innovators were issued 107 patents in 2025 alone, alongside 137 licenses and 15 new startup formations.

INVESTOR + ACCELERATOR

LifeX Global

Life sciences accelerator and venture capital for biotech, digital health, and medical device startups and state-supported Life Sciences Greenhouse.

Don't just take our word for it.



"Pittsburgh is literally one of the **most affordable cities** in the country. Combine that with such a great education base...and it's harder to fail here than any other city."
MARK CUBAN · Entrepreneur



"What better place **to industrialize manufacturing** of advanced therapies, particularly cell therapies? We must make these therapies cost effective."
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY · CEO, ElevateBio



"I believe it's thanks to Pittsburgh that Krystal is where we are today. We have a team of people...the grit they exhibit is just unparalleled. We are truly **grateful for this city and its people.**"
KRISH KRISHNAN · CEO, Krystal Biotech



"Pittsburgh has transformed itself into a **thriving center for biotechnology and innovation**...pairing cutting-edge technology with biomedical discovery in ways that set a standard for institutions across the country."
JAY BHATTACHARYA · Director, NIH

Megan Shaw, CEO & President.



“ The top inventors, investors, and futurists of our era are predicting the intersection of biology and technology will shape the 21st century. That intersection is embodied in Pittsburgh, where cutting edge clinical research and emerging technologies are converging to change the future of human health innovation.

Megan leads PLSA's regional platform — a partnership of Pittsburgh's research universities, integrated health systems, and the philanthropic and civic institutions that founded it. With 20+ years of experience in private equity, venture capital, building and advising start-ups, her work convenes industry, investors, and policy makers around the convergence story this region is producing.

CONTACT

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YOUR NEXT → DISCOVERY · INVESTMENT · COMPANY · JOB



Converge **here.**

If you're building, investing, recruiting, or studying in life sciences - Pittsburgh is choosing you back. PLSA connects ecosystem builders, investors, and partners to the convergence story this region is producing. Let us help you find your next big thing.

Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance (PLSA)

Pittsburghlifesci.org