

The Florida Center of Excellence for Biomolecular Identification and Targeted Therapeutics (FCoE-BITT)

FCoE-BITT is a comprehensive center that enhances interactions between scientists and engineers to develop novel drugs and devices for use in diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of human disease. FCoE-BITT encompasses the full range from discovery to commercialization and is expected to create an infrastructure that supports collaboration across the arts and sciences, engineering, medicine, nursing, and public health.

The Center's Mission is to:

Move promising biotechnology products to market and commercialization in Florida.

To date, FCoE-BITT Members have 20 filed and issued invention disclosures, two of which have been licensed, generating \$160,071 in licensing revenues.

A spin-off company, Nanopharma Technologies, Inc., located in the USF incubator, focuses on the development of patented new infectious disease treatment drugs from university labs.

Center members are developing a variety of products that are used to detect, diagnose, or treat illness. Some examples include drugs against malaria, anthrax, and cancer; detection devices to monitor food and water for bacteria; and therapeutic melanoma treatment devices.

Create jobs in the biotechnology industry in Florida and the Tampa Bay region.

The Center directly employs 14 people, including administrative staff, scientists, and laboratory support staff. The level of external funding secured by the Center's membership to date totals \$63,860,505. Other collaborations supporting local businesses, such as Draper Laboratories, Nanopharma, and Innovative Quality Sciences, Inc., contribute to the generation of jobs in those organizations.

Provide workforce development through universities and colleges to foster and support the biotechnology industry in Florida.

Through the Center's partnership with the Florida Advanced Technological Education Center, FCoE-BITT has developed and implemented a screening tool to assess current biotech-based workforce strengths and needs. A more detailed follow-up will establish a baseline for determining skill gaps for the Tampa Bay region biotech workforce. Subsequent surveys will focus on biotech R&D companies and major healthcare facilities that are candidate users of FCoE-BITT's detection, diagnostic, and therapeutic technologies. Survey results will help to tailor course content or direct training at USF and in community colleges.

Improve Florida's national ranking in biotechnology.

FCoE-BITT has been a key element in attracting Draper Laboratory, an MIT spin-off, to establish its biomedical engineering laboratories at USF. FCoE-BITT is dedicated to supporting efforts to move promising technologies to commercialization, create biotech jobs, and support workforce development.