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GREATER PITTSBURGH BIO & HEALTH EXPERIENCE

**AN INVITATION-ONLY IMMERSION DURING
STARTUP PGH 2026 | SEPT 15-17, 2026**

pittsburghregion.org



Hello.

Welcome to the Greater Pittsburgh Region – Where Discovery Becomes Therapy, and the Future of Health Is Researched, Built & Brought to Life

On behalf of the **Allegheny Conference on Community Development** and its business investment arm, the **Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**, alongside the **City of Pittsburgh**, **Allegheny County**, the **Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance**, the **University of Pittsburgh**, **Carnegie Mellon University**, **UPMC** and **UPMC Enterprises**, **Allegheny Health Network**, **Highmark Health**, **Innovation Works**, **LifeX**, **AlphaLab Health**, and regional partners, we welcome you to the **Greater Pittsburgh Life Sciences Experience**.

The Greater Pittsburgh Region is for discoverers, builders & healers, and is recognized as one of the nation's top emerging life sciences clusters. The cluster is anchored by:

- **Two nationally ranked integrated health systems** – UPMC, the region's largest employer with 40 hospitals and 800+ outpatient sites, and Allegheny Health Network – plus Highmark Health, giving founders unmatched clinical access, real-world data, and patient reach. (Pittsburgh Region. Next is Now.) Pittsburgh Region
- **\$1B+ committed by UPMC Enterprises** to translate discoveries into companies, alongside accelerators and seed-stage capital through AlphaLab Health and LifeX. (Pittsburgh Region. Next is Now.) Pittsburgh RegionUPMC Enterprises
- **60+ medical device companies and a deepening next-gen therapeutics base** – including Krystal Biotech, whose Pittsburgh-built gene therapy became the first and only FDA-approved treatment for dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. (Pittsburgh Region. Next is Now.) Pittsburgh Region
- **A top-tier research engine in the University of Pittsburgh** – globally renowned in immunology, transplantation, and neuroscience – working in deep partnership with **Carnegie Mellon** in computational biology and AI.

Pittsburgh's life sciences story has roots in curing what couldn't be cured. This is the city where Jonas Salk developed the polio vaccine and where the world's first breakthroughs in organ transplantation took hold. That legacy lives on in today's therapeutics, medical device, and digital-health companies – accelerated by a rare convergence of clinical scale, world-class research, and the region's strengths in AI, robotics, and advanced manufacturing, where data and discovery now move from lab to patient faster than almost anywhere in the country.

This is an expanded, specially curated experience designed to immerse you in that ecosystem as part of StartUP PGH, Pittsburgh's citywide startup and innovation week, September 14–18, 2026. Over multiple days you'll visit core R&D centers and leading companies, walk innovation districts like Hazelwood Green built on former steel sites, see live demonstrations, and meet the founders, scientists, clinicians, investors, and civic leaders building the next generation of cures and care – connecting directly into StartUP PGH's Bio + Health programming, where national investors and strategics share the room with the Pittsburgh companies and people driving human health innovation.



Logistics

Dates

September 15-17th, 2026

Location

Greater Pittsburgh Region, Pennsylvania, USA

Arrival

Suggested arrival: Evening prior to Day 1

All attendees should arrive at the host hotel no later than 7:30 AM on Day 1.

Hotel

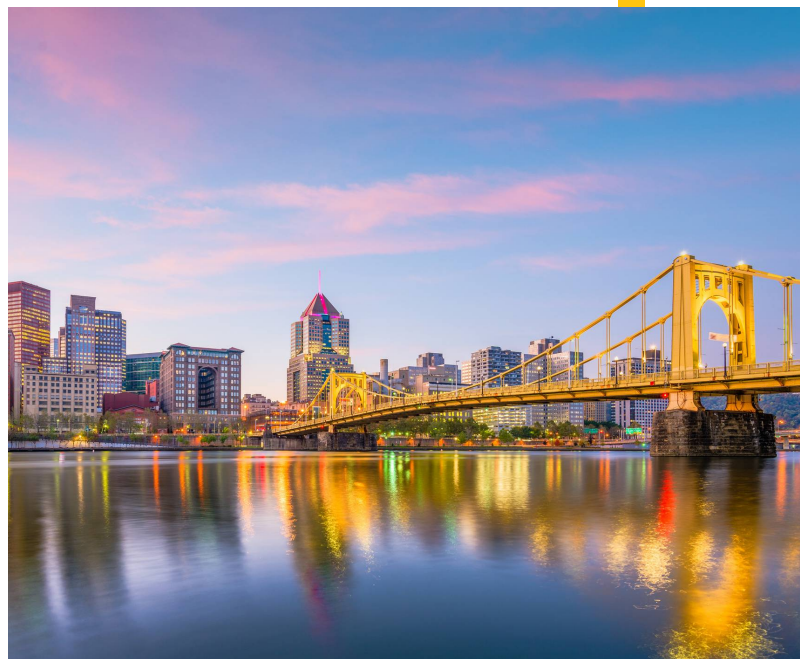
Oaklander - Pittsburgh University Center

5130 Bigelow Boulevard

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412.682.6200

Chartered coach transportation will be provided between all scheduled sites. The delegation is responsible for transportation to/from the airport.



Agenda – Day 1: Tuesday September, 15th

Bio & Health Life Sciences Innovation Ecosystem

**Please note, attendance at these events are mandatory*

10:00AM – 4:00 PM | IW Venture Expo

- **Location:** The Oaklander Hotel
- Innovation Works' Venture Expo brings together 40+ investor-ready startups from across the Pittsburgh region, spanning healthcare, digital health, cleantech, and social innovation for a day of pitches, investor engagement, and conversation. It offers a concentrated snapshot of the region's startup momentum, talent, and investable opportunities in one room.

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM | CMU Lab to Market

- **Location:** CMU Simmons Auditorium
- A curated gathering of investors for an exclusive look at Carnegie Mellon University's most promising research-driven startups. This day-long event spotlights breakthrough ventures emerging from CMU labs, including those led by CMU faculty, PhDs and postdocs—advancing the frontier in AI, robotics, cybersecurity, healthcare, and beyond. Meet the next wave of deep tech founders translating world-class research into transformative companies

3:00- 4:30 PM - The First Steps Toward Commercialization: IP and Funding

- **Location:** University of Pittsburgh Big Idea Center
- Join the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University for two practical conversations on what it takes to move university research toward commercialization.

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM | CMU Corporate Startup Lab Reception*

- Carnegie Mellon University's Corporate Startup Lab (CSL), an initiative of the Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship and the Tepper School of Business, helps companies drive growth by applying startup and venture paradigms to corporate transformation and innovation. Sitting at the intersection of research, startups, and industry, CSL provides a unique perspective to corporate venture building and has partnered with leading global technology and manufacturing companies.

Agenda – Day 2: Wednesday, September 16th

Bio & Health Life Sciences Innovation Ecosystem

Bio+Health Summit* (attendees must register on StartUP PGH website to see location details)

9:30 – 10:30 AM | Big Bets from Key Institutions

These regionally anchored, globally influential institutions share the big bets they are making to discover, invest in, commercialize, and deploy human health innovation.

- **Panelists:** Dr. Anatha Shekhar (Dean of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine); Theresa Mayer (Vice President for Research, Carnegie Mellon University); Matthias Kleinz (EVP Translational Sciences, UPMC Enterprises); Dr. Alistair Erskine (Chief Information Digital Officer, Allegheny Health Network)
- **Moderated** by Megan Shaw, President and CEO, Pittsburgh Life Sciences Alliance

10:45 – 11:30 AM | Cozy Capital: Bio + Med Device

Where life sciences investors are placing early-stage bio and medical device bets, and the signals they watch most closely.

- **Panelists:** 5AM Ventures; Boehringer Ingelheim
- **Moderated** by Phil Jones, VP Science and Discovery, UPMC Enterprises

11:30 – 11:55 AM | ARPA PGH: Ted Talk Presentations from local ARPA-H awardees

- Jonathan Steckbeck, Founder, President and CEO, Peptilogics
 - **DASH** - Data and AI for Safety in Humans
- John Ash, Executive Vice Chair for Research and Professor in Ophthalmology, University of Pittsburgh
 - **THEA** - Transplantation of Human Eye Allografts
- Adam Feinberg, Professor, Carnegie Mellon University and CTO and Co-Founder, FluidForm
 - **PRINT** - Personalized Regenerative Immunocompetent Nanotechnology Tissue
- **Moderated** by Emily Mullin, biotechnology staff writer, WIRED

11:55 AM – 12:40 PM | Cozy Capital: Healthcare Innovation

Nationally recognized health tech and digital health venture firms discuss their current theses and key innovation trends they are watching.

- **Panelists:** Steve Klasko (Executive in Residence, General Catalyst); Catherine Olexa-Meadors (Head of Growth and Partnerships, Town Hall Ventures); Meela Imperato (VP of Marketing, Redesign Health)

12:40 – 2:00 PM | Lunch Connections

Meet people building and investing in specific areas of focus including: AI-Powered Clinical Decision Support at the Point of Care; Precision Cancer Care & Immuno-Oncology; Delivering Healthcare at Home; AI + Biology: The New Drug Discovery Stack; Rethinking the Pharmacy; Rewiring Neuro Innovation; Cardiovascular Care, Reimagined.

2:00 – 2:40 PM | Growth Stage Lessons

Abridge is trusted across 300 health systems and Free Market Health has facilitated over \$5B in drug spending and has a network of over 400 accredited specialty pharmacies. Learn about their growing pains and gains.

- **Panelists:** Reba Schenk (VP of Partner Experience, Abridge); Joe Cardosi (CEO, Free Market Health)

2:40 – 3:30 PM | Straight Talk with Strategics

Global life sciences and health tech companies with major operations in Pittsburgh discuss their current business development priorities and human health innovation cycles they are following.

- **Panelists:** Hari Raghavacharulu (Head of R&D, Philips Sleep and Respiratory Care)
- **Moderated** by Evan Facher, Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Assoc. Dean Commercial Translation, University of Pittsburgh

5:00 – 8:00 PM | Allegheny Conference Corporate Innovation Business Exchange – The Riviera*

Agenda – Day 3: Thursday, September 17th

BIO & Health Life Sciences Innovation Ecosystem

**Please note, attendance at these events are mandatory*

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM | AI Horizons: Solutions on the Ground by AI Strike

- Location: Mercy Campus

Where legacy CEOs connect with the next generation of AI unicorns. Not a conference – a working floor for the new AI economy. The place where ideas move into action, partnerships are forged, and the trajectory of AI across industries that matter is defined in real time.

COMMUNITY TOUR TRACK (CONCEPT ONLY STILL TO BE CONFIRMED)*

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | UPMC Rehabilitation Institute

10:00 AM – 11:30 | AM Rehabilitation and Neural Engineering Labs (RNEL)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Vision and Human Factors Labs



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Contact Us

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