

Targeting Medical Research

Springfield, Missouri

As a metro area of nearly half a million people, Springfield is well positioned for growth in the area of medical technology. From research and clinical trials conducted by St. John's Medical Research Institute to a well-established stainless steel fabrication industry, Springfield companies can cover a number of bio-medical applications. Springfield is well-known for its large health care sector with two of the state's top 5 largest hospitals as well as its technical training programs at area community colleges and science degrees and research capabilities at area universities, especially Missouri State University.



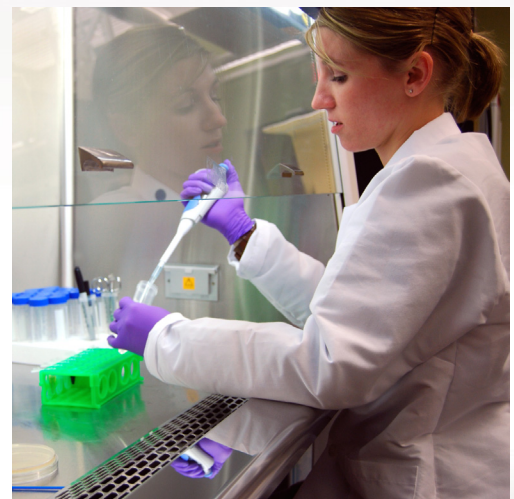
The recent redevelopment of downtown Springfield offered a perfect location for the continued expansion of Missouri State University's research arms. A few years ago the Center of Biomedical and Life Sciences and the Center for Applied Science and Engineering joined forces with the city to renovate a 1920's era feed mill into high-tech research space for R&D partnership with existing companies. The result is 75,000 sqft of clean rooms, wet labs and research space known as the Jordan Valley Innovation Center.

Both of MSU's research centers operate in a unique manner. Existing companies from around the U.S. locate a presence in the Innovation Center and partner with the university staff, faculty, and students on research projects. Intellectual property is held by the company, not the university, ensuring that more products are successfully taken to the market without licensing issues standing in the way.

Leading the way in the development of medical devices is St. John's Medical Research Institute and Inveno Health. The unique partnership of R&D and commercialization within a health system has led to the development of multiple products designed to specifically address current healthcare issues.

Springfield's metro area has a strong base in manufacturing with facilities like Kraft, 3M and SRC (Springfield Remanufacturing) that have been operating and expanding successfully for years. Since the 1950's Springfield has been home to a large number of stainless steel fabricators. Paul Mueller created the industry manufacturing tanks for the beverage industry (wine, beer, milk, etc) and recently Stainless Technology has begun manufacturing tanks used in the production of pharmaceuticals.

St. John's Medical Research Institute and Inveno Health provide a unique medical device development model by taking ideas from physician inventors and translating them into real-world medical solutions. One such product, a pediatric surgical positioner, reduced operating room time by 45 minutes.



Kara Childers, research scientist with St. John's, tests the effectiveness of solutions in development for treatment and prevention of eye infections.

US Photonics specializes in research and development for the biomedical field utilizing nano technologies through state-of-the-art laser technology. The company recently developed a femtosecond laser that can engage on match heads without igniting the match.